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3 Golani soldiers killed in Lebanon



IDF soldiers patrol yesterday near the scene of the security zone bombing that killed three of their comrades. (Avim Shapira/Israel Sun)

By ARNOLD O'SULLIVAN

Three Golani Brigade soldiers were killed and four wounded yesterday by a powerful roadside charge, which Hizbullah planted some 30 meters from the gate of an IDF outpost in the security zone.

The three dead soldiers were identified as Sgt. Nahum Elah, 19, from Jerusalem, who was killed outright by the blast, Sgt. Raz Promovitch, 19, from Gan Yavne, and Sgt. Yosef Ben-Muha, 19, from Haifa who died in hospital from their wounds. Of the four surviving wounded, two were in serious and one in satisfactory condition, and one suffered light wounds, hospital officials said.

Elah is to be buried today at Jerusalem's Mt. Herzl Military Cemetery at 2 p.m. Promovitch's funeral is to be at 3:45 in Gan Yavne. The details of Ben-Muha's funeral were not yet released. Their deaths brought to 18 the number of IDF soldiers killed in Lebanon this year.

In Beirut, Hizbullah took responsibility for the attack by the outpost of Tel Kaba, just 300 meters from the border fence and a few kilometers from Kibbutz Misgav Am and Kibbutz Menara.

The Golani soldiers had just emerged from the outpost and were making their way to a weapons drill at about 11:20 a.m. when the bomb was set off by remote control about 35 meters from the gate, wounding everyone in the squad.

Rescuers rushed from the position to treat the wounded, who were quickly flown by helicopter to Rambam Hospital in Haifa and Rebecca Sieff Hospital in Safed.

It took Hizbullah only a few hours to broadcast videotaped footage of the patrol walking into the ambush.

Sources said the IDF is investigating how the guerrillas planted a bomb so close to the outpost, as well as the possibility that local residents may have aided them. A South Lebanese Army outpost is nearby, but senior IDF commanders insisted there was no connection between them and the bombing.

Channel 2 reported that the IDF has recently demolished a large number of houses next to the IDF outpost.

"This incident is difficult for two reasons," said Brig.-Gen. Erez Gerstein, commander of the IDF liaison unit to Lebanon. "One, because of the number of casualties and two, we have to examine how they succeeded in penetrating such a relatively secure distance from an IDF outpost to plant a bomb. It's not impossible, but it is complicated and demands a high level of training, and this is apparently what happened in this instance."

Gerstein told reporters the bomb was a powerful claymore mine and that all of the soldiers were wounded, even though they had kept their distance from one another.

Military sources said there had been fog the night before and this may have helped the Hizbullah guerrillas sneak up undetected.

The deaths came after a relative lull in which Hizbullah had not succeeded in inflicting casualties on the IDF in south Lebanon. The previous deadly attack occurred on October 5, when two soldiers were killed; also by a roadside bomb.

Hizbullah's weapon of choice remains the roadside bomb, which has been the main cause of IDF casualties in Lebanon this year. The IDF uses various methods to discover and neutralize such bombs, including trained dogs, but has not yet found a comprehensive solution to the threat.

Hizbullah has lost over 45 gunmen so far this year, according to the IDF. Since January, 31 SLA militiamen have been killed.

Yesterday's bomb attack came six hours after IAF jets struck twice at Hizbullah bases in southern Lebanon. It was the eighth air strike in as many days. There were no reports of casualties from the raids in the Iqim al-Tufiah area, a Hizbullah stronghold about 10 kilometers northwest of Marjayoun.

Hizbullah said in its statement that yesterday's deadly attack was in response to the continuing air raids.

Eighteen Israeli soldiers and one civilian have been killed in Lebanon so far this year. Two other IDF soldiers were killed when their APC accidentally drove off a cliff on September 5.

US: Halt the war of words

By DANNA HARMAN

After two days in which Israeli and Palestinian leaders traded threats and counterthreats, and after Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu all but said no redeployment will take place this week, the US stepped in yesterday to tell the sides to quiet down and get on with implementing the Wye accord.

State Department spokesman James Rubin described Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat's threat to rekindle the intifada as "wrong."

He then went on to criticize Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon for his statements encouraging settlers to "grab the hilltops."

"If the Palestinians continue with these statements — which are a complete violation of the Wye accords, then Arafat will continue to sit in Gaza and Nablis and not anywhere else," said Sharon yesterday, referring to statements made by Arafat on Sunday to the effect that the Palestinians would take up arms to protect Jerusalem.

Sharon called on settlers to "run and capture as many hills as possible" in the West Bank. "Everything we don't take will eventually get into the hands of the Palestinians," he said.

A spokesman for Sharon later clarified that he was referring to the hills within the land already designated by the government as part of existing settlements — which does not go against any agreement.

Some 30 settlers, however, not bothered by the details, set up two mobile homes on a hill west of Kedumim soon after Sharon made his statement.

"There is no place," said Rubin at a press briefing, "for statements which call for or suggest violent actions. These remarks were wrong and we will be raising them directly with Chairman Arafat. And statements such as the one made by Foreign Minister Sharon undermine the trust and confidence and necessary for such an environment. And we will be raising this statement with the Foreign Ministry directly."

"We expect both parties to abide by the agreement they signed, which did not include conditions about subjects like this."

See WORDS, Page 2

Zilberfarb slams Frenkel

By DAVID ZEV HARRIS

Treasury Director-General Ben-Zion Zilberfarb yesterday launched a scathing attack on the Bank of Israel and called on Governor Jacob Frenkel to do some soul searching, following his decision to hike interest rates by two percent — the second time in a fortnight.

Zilberfarb said Frenkel should have directly intervened in trading in recent weeks to prevent the shekel's slide against the dollar and other major currencies.

However, since Frenkel's interest-rate announcement on Thursday, the shekel has strengthened considerably, with the representative rate set yesterday at NIS 4.16 against the dollar.

In an interview with *The Jerusalem Post*, Frenkel defended his actions and said he had absolutely no intention of quitting and will continue in office until the end of his second term in 2001.

Full report, Page 12

THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM
The Rothberg International School
(formerly the Rothberg School for Overseas Students)
invites alumni and friends of the school, including those attending the General Assembly of the Council of Jewish Federations/CIJA to a reunion and reception at the school's new Louis H. Boyar Building, Mount Scopus campus on Wednesday, November 18, 1998, at 8 p.m.
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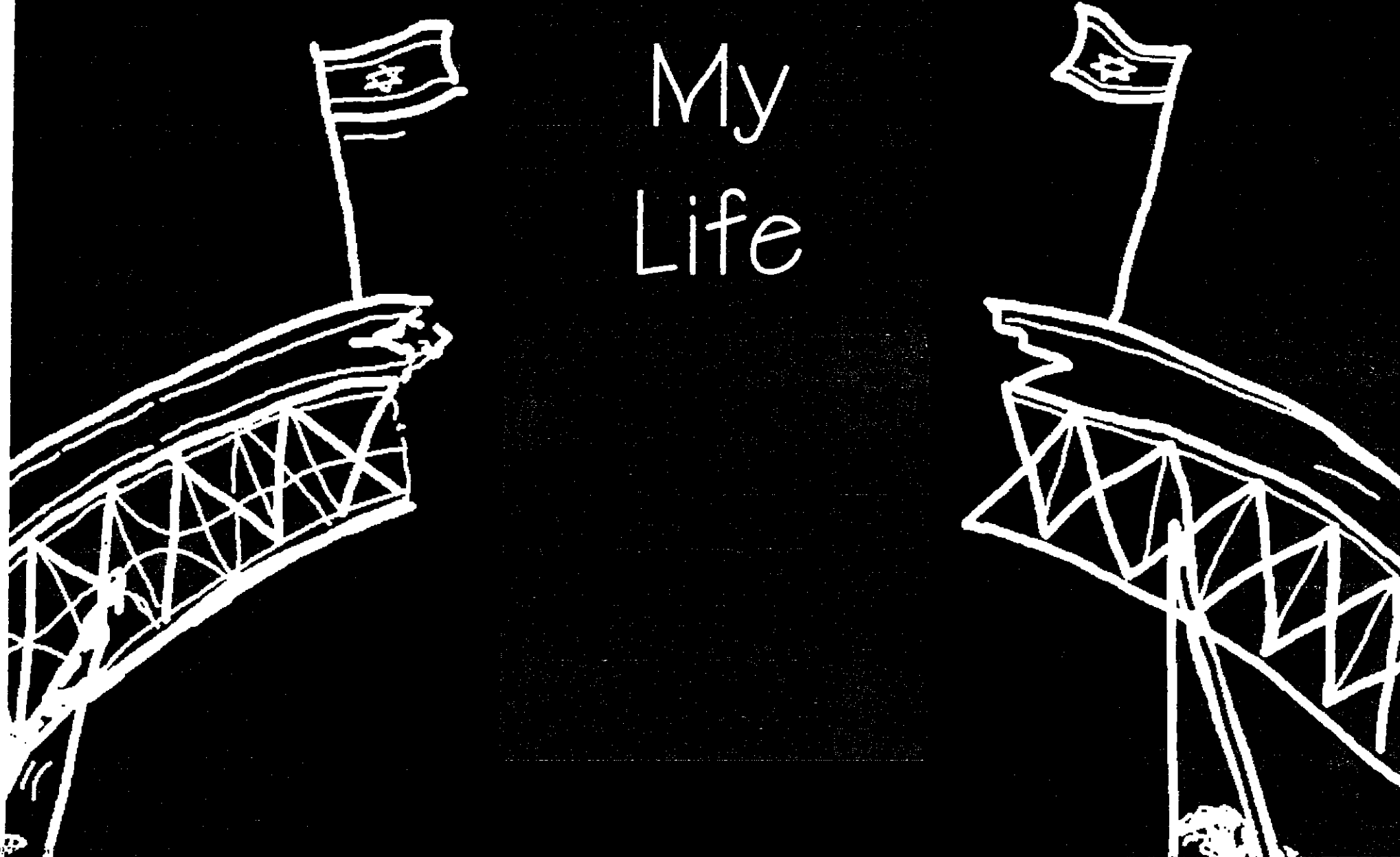
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My Israel Experience Changed My Life



"DON'T LET
IT HAPPEN AGAIN!"

GA DELEGATES: Join us, the victims and families of the Maccabiah Bridge disaster, in our demand for justice based on simple Jewish values.

At the Opening Ceremony of the 15th Maccabiah Games on July 14th, 1997, the pedestrian bridge collapsed.

4 Australians lost their lives; 64 other Australian participants were injured, some very seriously.

And still,

■ 16-year-old Sasha Elterman, an American citizen and proud Australian-Jewish athlete, still remains in the hospital after undergoing more than 30 operations in 16 months.

■ The Maccabi World Union (MWU) officials, responsible for the 1997 15th Maccabiah Games, still hold executive positions.

■ The MWU is still refusing to take responsibility, moral or otherwise, for the disaster.

■ The issue of legal responsibility is still being bitterly contested.

■ The victims and their families are still treated in an unacceptable, insensitive manner.

We urge you, American Jewish leaders, to support the difficult efforts of our small and distant Australian Jewish community to achieve justice.

**DEMAND WITH US THAT THE
MACCABI WORLD UNION BE HELD
ACCOUNTABLE AS THE ORGANIZERS
OF THE 15TH MACCABIAH GAMES!**

☞ Call upon your local Maccabi organization to pressure MWU for a resolution of the dispute;

☞ Urge your community to withhold funds and sponsorships from MWU until such resolution;

☞ Insist that MWU executives resign, at least until the conclusion of the legal and parliamentary proceedings.

**AND DO IT NOW, SO THAT THE VICTIMS AND THE AUSTRALIAN JEWISH
COMMUNITY ARE NOT LEFT TO FIGHT THIS HEARTBREAKING BATTLE ALONE.**

NEWS

in brief

Pollard seeks to block prisoner release

Jonathan Pollard petitioned the High Court yesterday to block the release of 750 Palestinian prisoners until he is freed. He claimed President Bill Clinton promised during the Wye summit last month to free him in exchange for Israel's release of hundreds of Palestinians and other concessions.

"Clinton caved in to CIA chief George Tenet's threats and reneged on his commitment to release Pollard but apparently still expects Israel to uphold its end of the deal," his wife Esther said.

Clinton denied promising Pollard's release but pledged to review his case. Pollard, a former US naval intelligence analyst who passed secrets to Israel, has been in prison since 1985.



Esther Pollard (AP)

Conservative converts granted citizenship

The members of a black family from Chicago, who were converted to Judaism by Conservative rabbis, were yesterday granted citizenship, thus ending a six-month legal battle. The father, Elazar Yisrael, had actually made aliyah over a year ago and had become a citizen, but when he arrived in June with his wife, four children, and her two grandchildren from a previous marriage, they were held at Ben-Gurion Airport and questioned for six hours. Eventually they were allowed to stay in the country without a visa. They were granted temporary residence visas in September.

Rabbi Andy Sacks of the Conservative movement said yesterday that the fact that the family was black and that they had undergone a Conservative conversion had both made it more difficult for them.

Haim Shapiro

Emergency meeting on Russian antisemitism

Leaders of Jewish organizations from around the world will hold an emergency meeting in Jerusalem this week to discuss recent antisemitic expressions in Russia.

The meeting will focus on the session of the lower house of the Russian parliament, or State Duma, held two days ago in which it was decided not to condemn Communist parliamentarian Albert Makashov, who accused Jews of being responsible for the Russian economic crisis, instead making do with a condemnation which referred to "statements which stir ethnic difficulties."

Aryeh Dean Cohen

Loud bang causes scare at Ichilov

A loud bang caused a security scare outside Tel Aviv's Ichilov Hospital yesterday afternoon, but police said they found no evidence of an explosion. Witnesses said a vehicle may have backfired as it passed the hospital, causing passersby to run for cover. No one was hurt.

Reuters

Emergency drill at Sheba

A drill for handling wounded from a mass catastrophe will be held at Sheba Hospital between 12.30 and 3 p.m. today. The public are asked not to go to the hospital during the exercise except for emergencies.

Judy Siegel

Fund launched to bring Jewish youth here

Hoping to strengthen ties between world Jewish communities and Israel, a group of philanthropists have unveiled an ambitious and big-ticket project to bring Jewish teens here on an all-expenses-paid trip. Private donors, charitable organizations and the Israeli government are pushing to raise \$300 million over the next five years to kick off the "Birthright Israel" project by 2000. The money will be used to pay for air fare and 10 days of educational programs in Israel for every Jewish youth in the world between the ages of 15 and 26, organizers said.

AP

Abraham Fund grants \$800,000 for coexistence

In a ceremony at the Knesset under the patronage of Speaker Dan Tichon and MK Ze'ev Binyamin Begin, the Abraham Fund awarded \$793,000 to 66 projects and organizations advancing Jewish-Arab coexistence. The fund has awarded more than \$5 million to more than 350 since it began funding local coexistence work in 1993.

Jerusalem Post Staff

Cancer society has new toll-free numbers

The Israel Cancer Association's Tele-meida phone service, which supplies recorded information on prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and rehabilitation, can now be dialed at no cost. The new toll-free number is 1-800-599995. In addition, the Tele-micha service, which offers emotional first aid for cancer patients and is staffed by social workers from the Hadassah-University Hospital in Jerusalem's Ein Kerem, also has a new toll-free number: 1-800-200444.

Judy Siegel

Swiss bank investigation extended six months

A massive search of Swiss banks for missing assets of Holocaust victims is taking longer than expected, with the final report delayed six months to July, a panel member on the Volcker commission said yesterday in Geneva.

A newspaper report said banks were concerned about the mounting cost of the investigation, \$730 million, by the end of the investigation - and the prospect of the investigation being extended.

AP

Call for pluralism on religious councils

The government must seat representatives of all streams of Judaism, who have been duly appointed, on local religious councils, the Jewish Agency Assembly demanded in its closing statement yesterday.

Completing its deliberations, the assembly called upon the government to act according to the High Court decision on this matter. The motion was passed to support those council members from Reform and Conservative streams who have been barred from participating on religious councils to which they were elected.

Aryeh Dean Cohen

PM slammed by Knesset panel

By LIAT COLLINS

More than three weeks after the Wye Memorandum was signed and just hours before the start of the Knesset debate on it, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu appeared before the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee and was subjected to a barrage of criticism.

Netanyahu said that if Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat declares a Palestinian state, the agreements will collapse. He also said that if Arafat does not take real action against terror but only goes through the motions, it will violate the agreement. Netanyahu said the government is waiting for further clarifications on Arafat's statements this week.

Chairman Uzi Landau (Likud) told

reporters that despite repeated requests, the prime minister had failed to provide the committee with redeployment maps or details on releasing Palestinian security prisoners. Landau also blasted the Wye negotiating team, saying, "Allowing the same team to continue like this with the final-status negotiations would be like giving matches to children."

Speaker Dan Tichon later announced the vote on the agreement would not take place until the maps had been made available.

In the committee, Netanyahu responded point by point to a letter the committee issued last week on what it described as faults in the Wye agreement.

Netanyahu said 146 security prisoners would be released, but none of them with blood on their hands or members of Hamas.

The rest of the 750 prisoners to be released will apparently be criminals.

He also said there is a Palestinian agreement to a detailed plan under which 30 Palestinians wanted for terror attacks will be arrested. The plan includes a schedule. Netanyahu said if the Palestinians do not abide by it, he will release all the documents to show that they are not honoring agreements.

Meretz leader Yossi Sarid told reporters that Netanyahu had "not told the committee a single truth," adding, "This agreement is the worst ever brought before the Knesset."

Moldet leader Rehavam Ze'evi described the negotiations as "shoddy."

Labor Party leader Ehud Barak said the prime minister had not shown leadership or stood firm, but said the agreement is better

than the bloodshed which would have resulted otherwise.

MK Ze'ev (Benny) Begin (Likud) publicly slammed the prime minister, saying he was acting "like a disrag." In the committee he apparently told Netanyahu, "The previous government provided guns and you have provided the territory in which they will be used."

Netanyahu discarded the criticism as irrelevant, saying that no matter what agreement he had presented there would be those who would be against it.

MK Haim Ramon (Labor) complained about Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon's statements calling on settlers to "grab hill-sides." Ramon said it would encourage settlers to break the law and lead to bloodshed.



President Ezer Weizman (right) and Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon (center) raise a toast to resigning MK Ehud Olmert yesterday. (Isaac Harezi)

Knesset praises resigning Olmert

By LIAT COLLINS

The Knesset took time out from the debate on the Wye Memorandum yesterday to bid farewell to one of its longest-serving members. Ehud Olmert was toasted in a Likud faction meeting, and later the plenum broke off for an hour to enable MKs to praise him for his 25 years in the House.

Olmert was forced to choose between his position as Jerusalem mayor and his Knesset seat under a law which bans MKs from holding both jobs.

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu noted that Olmert was the senior Likud MK.

When coalition whip Meir Sheerit repeatedly mispronounced the mayor's name, Ze'ev (Benny) Begin quipped that after 25 years he should get it right.

Olmert told the House: "I am leaving, but not parting; leaving, but staying. It's not easy to leave what has filled one's public life for 25 years. What helps me is the knowledge that in my Knesset work, I acted for Jerusalem's sake and its unity."

He said he had acted equally

for all. Orthodox, traditional, and secular Jews, and Palestinians, who will always be part of the Jewish sovereignty in all Jerusalem but deserve equal rights, respect, and quality of life.

Speaker Dan Tichon said Olmert was "one of the best speakers in the Knesset" and never shied from fighting for what he thought right, even if he had to do it alone. Tichon noted Olmert's campaign against organized crime in 1976.

Olmert refused to answer reporters' questions on whether he would run for prime minister

in the future.

The letter of resignation he submitted to Tichon takes effect in 48 hours. He is scheduled to be replaced by Ron Nahman, who has petitioned the High Court to be allowed to continue as mayor of Ariel.

Tsomet's Pini Badash, who has been reelected Omer mayor, said he would file his resignation on December 1. Badash described the new ban on holding both positions as "stupid" and said he would not have been reelected were his constituents not pleased with his work both at the municipal and national levels.

IMA blasts bill which would regulate ADHD treatment

By JUDY SIEGEL

The Health Ministry and the Israel Medical Association yesterday voiced their strong opposition to a private member's bill proposed by Labor MK Yona Yavah that would regulate the treatment of attention-deficit hyperactivity disorders (ADHD) with the drug Ritalin.

The bill, which was preliminarily discussed in the Knesset Anti-Drug Committee, has aroused much concern among physicians and public health experts, who fear it will lead to unprecedented legislative intervention in doctors' professional judgment.

Ritalin, introduced as an amphetamine-like stimulant over 40 years ago and known generically as methylphenidate, has the curious effect of calming down ADHD children, apparently because it affects the midbrain that controls impulses.

About one percent of Israeli

children take the drug, compared to about 3% of American youngsters, "but a much greater fuss has been made here by a minority of parents," said Prof. Asher Or-Noy, a pediatrician and expert on child development at the Hebrew University-Hadassah School of Medicine and the Jerusalem Center for Child Development. "There have been some cases of incorrect diagnosis and unnecessary taking of Ritalin, but these don't justify legal interference."

Last year, Or-Noy was appointed by Health Minister Yehoshua Matza to head a committee for the investigation of ADHD and how to cope with victims of the largely genetic disease, which affects three to five times as many boys as girls.

He subsequently adopted the committee's recommendations, which included the training of special staff to identify children at high risk for ADHD and send them for testing.

The Labor Party Knesset faction decided last night to restore MK Ori Orr to his party positions from which he had been suspended after he made derogatory comments about the country's Sephardi communities last summer.

By a vote of 16-3, the faction decided to cancel the limitations imposed on Orr, whose key position is that of membership on the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. During the period of suspension, he was also not allowed the right to speak in the Knesset.

Those who voted against were Nissim Zivili, Eitan Cabel, and Adisu Massala.

Party leader Ehud Barak, who is an ally of Orr and led the move to restore his status, said: "Orr made a big mistake, but he worked to correct it."

Haim Ramon, who was opposed to restoring Orr's position, did not participate in the vote, and said: "I would rather stay in the opposition for the rest of my life and not be a



Ori Orr (Isaac Harezi)

partner in leadership of a party who has someone with such views."

Last July, Orr caused a national uproar as a result of a full-page interview in *Ha'aretz* in which he said, "I can't talk to these people like I can talk to others who are more Israeli in character." He also said that when he refers to Oriental communities, "I especially mean the Moroccans, who are the most problematic."

Orr's comments resulted in a setback for the party after a year earlier Barak asked the Sephardi communities for forgiveness.

Road safety body may get new framework

Transport Ministry Director-General Nahum Langenthal yesterday denied allegations that the ministry intends closing the Road Safety Administration but said it is considering transferring it to a different framework.

He said the most likely place would be within the Community Centers' Society. Langenthal was speaking at the State Control Committee, Committee chairman Yossi Katz demanded that the ministry find funds for the authority and said it must discuss the best way of it operating with volunteer bodies.

Gas mask centers cut back distribution

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

The latest Iraqi crisis may be truly behind us, because the Home Front Command (HFC) will no longer be providing a 24-hour gas-mask distribution service and will gradually cut back the number of distribution centers around the country.

"It's very expensive and the public is not really coming. The stations are nearly empty," one senior HFC officer told *Army Radio*. "This is the time to come for those who don't like waiting in lines."

The HFC will today begin closing some of the additional gas-mask distribution stations opened last

week. It will operate 39 of the 65 stations opened from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. It is expected that over the weekend a decision will be made to reduce to 30 the stations which had been functioning before the latest Iraqi crisis.

The HFC has also closed down its regional telephone information numbers, but has kept open the national line at 1255111.

The decision came after Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai gathered top IDF and police commanders to decide on what steps needed to be taken in view of the apparent end of the crisis with Iraq.

MK Haj Yehiye agrees to drop parliamentary immunity

AT THE KNESSET

By LIAT COLLINS

Labor's newest MK Rafik Haj Yehiye agreed yesterday that his parliamentary immunity could be lifted to enable the conclusion of a court case against him on charges of attacking a photographer. At the time of the incident, Haj Yehiye was Tel Aviv mayor. The court case had nearly ended when he was elected to the Knesset and attorney-general asked that his immunity be lifted to conclude it. The Knesset House Committee, chaired by Raphael Pinhasi (Shas),

unanimously agreed to lift it once Haj Yehiye agreed.

Levy wants to expand Naaleh program

Education Minister and National Religious Party leader Yitzhak Levy told the Knesset Immigration and Absorption Committee, "No candidates to the Naaleh program [for youth who immigrate without their parents] would be rejected if they are eligible under the Law of Return, even if they are not halachically Jewish." Committee chairwoman Naomi Blumenthal (Likud) said it was strange that only 15% of those who pass the initial sorting process are accepted

compared to 45% last year.

Levy said he wants to expand the program to youth in Argentina and elsewhere.

MK Shmuel Halpert (United Torah Judaism) said 47% of the Naaleh students are not Jewish but Labor's Ophir Pines-Paz disputed this and said 95% have Jewish mothers.

Fight for equal pay

"The report on wage differences in the public sector shows an average 25 percent difference between men and women in the men's favor," said Meretz MK Anat Maar at the Knesset Committee on the Status of Women yesterday. "The

claim that this is a discrepancy and not discrimination does not hold. We demand equal pay and won't be satisfied with just good intentions."

Deputy Civil Service Commissioner Yuval Rechelevsky who presented the report said in most cases the differences are between 15% and 17% and the gap has been reduced over the last decade. He said most of the wage differential was due to overtime. He suggested closing government offices at 5 pm and not allowing overtime.

The 25% figure stems from the fact that most of the low clerical positions are filled by women while the senior positions are held mainly by men.

סוכן מן הארץ

Herzog: Berlin memorial will go ahead

German President Roman Herzog said yesterday that Germany would establish a central memorial in Berlin to the Nazi Holocaust despite continued uncertainty over what form it should take.

"I say clearly. It is not a matter of 'whether' but of 'how,'" Herzog said in a speech accepting an honorary doctorate from Ben-Gurion University in Beersheba, where he also inaugurated the university's Center for German Studies together with President Ezer Weizman.

First proposed by a lobby group 10 years ago, the memorial has been dogged by delays and controversy over the final design. Germany's new chancellor, Gerhard Schröder, was quoted last month as saying he favors a more interactive memorial than the labyrinth of stone columns his predecessor, Helmut Kohl, had wanted built on a site in Berlin's future government quarter.

Herzog began his visit at Yad Vashem, the Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Authority in Jerusalem. In his speech later at BGU, he said Germany had determined never to forget the Holocaust.

"Precisely now, since those who witnessed it are becoming fewer and fewer, we need sites, many sites, that bear witness and serve as a warning," he said.

Herzog is to meet with Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu in Jerusalem and Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat in Jericho before starting a two-day visit to Jordan.

(Reuters)



Ben-Gurion University president Avishai Braverman (right) hands German President Roman Herzog an honorary degree yesterday in Beersheba. (AP)

Students demand PM's intervention

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN

Striking university students announced yesterday they will not continue negotiations with Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman and demanded Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu intervene in their struggle for lower tuition.

"Neeman behaved like a lawyer working for the prime minister and not like the finance minister of the State of Israel," said National Union of Israeli Students chairman Lior Rothbart after the talks broke down. "We're sick of lawyers' red tape. The only one who can solve the crisis is the prime minister, and he had better stop hiding behind the Treasury."

Rothbart described the meeting with Neeman as "disappointing and sterile." Some of the students, who have been striking for 24 days, began a hunger strike opposite the prime minister's residence nine days ago.

Last evening the 13th hunger striker to collapse since the beginning of the strike was hospitalized. The students received unexpected

support from the Knesset plenum yesterday, when Labor Party leader Ehud Barak called on Netanyahu and the rest of the house to learn a lesson from the students.

"For once we see people from left and right, religious and secular, Jews and Arabs, stand together for a just and vital cause," Barak said. He urged the prime minister to put everything aside and get together with Neeman and Education Minister Yitzhak Levy to resolve the crisis.

Barak lashed out at Netanyahu for criticizing ministers who expressed support with the students at Sunday's cabinet meeting and telling them they were harming the government.

"Maybe support for the students harms your government, but it's vital to the state and the nation. These students are the key to our future momentum and progress. They are the ones who will be called to the flag if we have to go to war again," Barak said.

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, who has met with the students three times and supports them, said in response to

Netanyahu's rebuke: "Stop treating the students as enemies. We must listen to them. Don't forget the students are our children and our best warriors."

Earlier yesterday student leaders met with Levy, who expressed support for their proposal to receive a reduction in tuition in exchange for work on social projects.

On Sunday night student representatives met with Beit Hanassi Director-General Arye Shumer, who has been mediating between them and the Treasury. Shumer said yesterday there had been some progress at a meeting.

Faculty members have come to the strikers' tent to support the students, including Dr. Haim Heimes of Ben-Gurion University, who has joined the hunger strike. Dr. Esther Jerassi, formerly of the Weizmann Institute, and her husband joined their hunger-striking son yesterday. "We won't abandon our children to the cynical policy practiced by the prime minister toward the students, who are the backbone of this country," she said.

Jewish veterans planning large conference here in 2000

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

Plans are being made to organize a large gathering of Jewish war veterans from around the world in Jerusalem in the year 2000, Israeli veterans said.

The initiative to hold the conference came from the largely successful assembly of Jewish war veterans last February in Jerusalem to mark Israel's 50th anniversary. That conference was organized by Tzevet, the organization of IDF pensioners, which has received many appeals to put together another gathering.

Tzevet deputy head Avi Telem is currently meeting in London with the organizing committee of the World Assembly of Jewish War Veterans to win approval for the conference and to set a date.

Senior Tzevet official Yossi Porat said the organization believes that the end of the millennium celebrations will make a conference in the Holy Land even more attractive to Jewish veterans from around the world. "We will be marking the end of a millennium which

was very important for the Jews, and the veterans will want to be a part of the celebrations," said Porat.

Some 200 veterans attended the assembly last February. Even though it was held in the midst of a crisis with Iraq, which plunged the country into a panicked race to update their gas masks, there were few cancellations from the veterans.

Porat said the next conference would be similar to February's and would include meetings with top IDF commanders, as well as visits to military bases. Top Israeli leaders are also expected to address the gathering.

One of the driving factors behind the determination to put on the conference is the recognition that Jewish war veterans across the world are not getting any younger and that there was a great desire by many of them to make a visit to Israel before they are unable to do so.

Tzevet is likely to get help from the IDF Veterans of War Association and the Israel War Veterans' League, which is made up entirely of World War II veterans.

Local church: March 1999 possible date of papal visit

By HAIM SHAPIRO

If Pope John Paul II does come to Israel during the year 2000, it is likely the date of his visit will be March 25, which marks the Roman Catholic festival of Annunciation, a Roman Catholic source told *The Jerusalem Post* yesterday.

He was speaking in connection with the official publication by the local church of its calendar for the millennium.

Latin Patriarch Michel Sabbah, speaking at a press conference marking the event, at first refused to specify any date. "Every day he is welcome," Sabbah said.

However later he singled out three days as possible dates: Easter (April 23), Annunciation (when the angel Gabriel appeared to Mary), and Assumption (August 15, when Mary ascended to heaven).

Of the three, however, it would be highly unusual for the pope to

be away from Rome on Easter, and Sabbah himself noted that weather was one of the considerations, making it unlikely that an ailing pontiff would visit in midsummer.

At the same time, Sabbah said it was the political situation which was preventing a visit by the pope.

"The situation of conflict in the land is the one main reason for which Rome cannot decide if he will come," the patriarch said. John Paul II has expressed a

keen desire to visit Jerusalem as part of the millennium celebrations, but has not announced concrete plans to do so.

Sabbah added the signing of the Wye agreement had appeared to create a more positive atmosphere, but later, speaking to reporters, he said it was up to Israel to take the steps necessary to bring peace to the region.

"The Palestinians have done everything they can," Sabbah said. "All they have left is to die."



She Also Has A Right To Make Aliya

Seven years ago, following Operation Solomon, Ethiopian Israelis presented to the Israeli government's Ministries of the Interior and Absorption, the Jewish Agency and the Knesset Committee on Aliya and Klita, a list of the 29,000 Beta Israel left behind in Ethiopia. 13,000 Beta Israel have since made aliya.

16,000 - including those in Quara - are still suffering and dying in Ethiopia. They are not even allowed to enter the Israeli Embassy to apply for aliya, as Jews in any other country can. Thousands have fled their villages, some driven out violently by their non-Jewish neighbors.

They have congregated in Addis Ababa and Gondar City. Some live in boarded-over outhouses. Others have no shelter at all and sleep in unprotected alleys. Many children are covered with running sores. Some are starving. Jewish graveyards in Addis and Gondar are filled to capacity; they include the bodies of babies.

Those who are lucky receive minimal assistance from their hard-pressed relatives in Israel - parents, grandparents, sisters, brothers - even children serving in the Israeli Army.

This community keeps Shabbat, prays three times a day, maintains a Jewish day school for 2,000 children, loves the Jewish people and yearns for its homeland, the State of Israel. Prominent religious leaders from all streams of world Jewry (including Kes Raphael Hadane, the chief spiritual leader of Ethiopian Jewry) have urged the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee and the North American Conference on Ethiopian Jewry to provide immediate life-saving aid to this distressed community.

A PLEA FOR JUSTICE AND SUPPORT

AS ETHIOPIAN ISRAELIS, WE DEMAND THAT OUR GOVERNMENT END ITS DISCRIMINATORY POLICIES AGAINST OUR FAMILIES IN ETHIOPIA

WE PLEAD FOR SUPPORT FROM OUR JEWISH BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN AMERICA.

American Jewish leaders:

PLEASE - help us urge the JDC and NACOEJ to ignore pressure from the Israeli government and return to Ethiopia to provide critical medical care, food, housing, education and employment.

PLEASE - help us persuade the Israeli government to order its embassy in Addis Ababa to receive applications for aliya and to order the Ministry of the Interior to process these applications immediately.

In the past, American Jews moved heaven and earth to ensure that thousands of Ethiopian Jews came home. Please help us finish this historic mission and reunite ALL our families in Israel.

THE SOUTH WING TO ZION

Association for the Ingathering and Absorption of Ethiopian Jews

IN ISRAEL:
The South Wing to Zion
P.O.B. 23970
Jerusalem

TEL. 052-401506

IN THE U.S.:
Friends of South Wing to Zion
P.O.B. 580, Gracie Station
New York, NY 10028

TEL. FAX. (212) 794-1904

Join thousands of Ethiopian Jews in Solidarity

Tuesday, November 17, all day starting at noon, at the Jerusalem International Convention Center

Organized by the South Wing to Zion

AT THE GA

Borrowing from PT Barnum, United Israel Office director-general Menachem Revivi called the 67th General Assembly of the UJA Federations of North America (GA) the "Greatest Jewish Show on Earth."

Revivi said the event took two years to plan, and the huge turnout was an overwhelming success.



Menachem Revivi.

(Shem-Tov/Harari)

"This is a very unique GA," Revivi said, "a way to conduct a meaningful dialogue and bring together a partnership."

The United Israel Office represents the United Israel Appeal, the Council of Jewish Federations and the United Jewish Appeal.

Revivi said the joining of Israelis and North Americans would allow the delegates "to see Israel through the eyes of Israelis, and not from a tour guide on a bus." The GA had to close registration in the morning, announcing it over the radio, because they were overbooked.

Some 5,600 people registered, including 2,300 Israelis. It was overwhelming for the organizers, who walked around yesterday morning figuring out who they were going to have to tell that they were being shut out of the main room, where Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was to speak.

Organizers prepared for the discontent by booking a barbershop quartet to entertain the Federation faithful.

Yair Lapid's TV show, *Ha'erev*, last night conducted an interview in English with Charles Bronfman, international chairman of the GA.

Lilith Magazine, with the help of Bank Hapoalim, reprinted a walking tour "honoring Jerusalem's renowned terrific women."

It included the homes of poets Rahel, Zelda Shneerson Mishkovsky and Elsa Lasker Schuler, artist Anna Ticho, author Myriam Harry and many others.

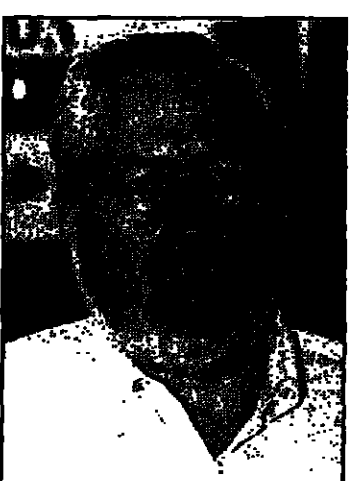
One of the organizers is the Boeing Company, sponsoring their third GA. Sales director Jim Frank said it was part of the company's "contribution to the State of Israel and to developing a partnership with Israeli industry," specifically the selling of F-15s and commercial 777s.

"This is the largest conference in Israel in the 50th year," said Harold Adler, one of the organizers from New York, proudly.

What they expected, he said, was around 1,500 North American delegates, and not the 3,300 who did come. "And less than two dozen cancelled last week in the midst of the crisis with [Iraqi leader] Saddam Hussein. We're very pleasantly surprised."

Among the many booths scattered around the International Convention Center hall were El Al, giving away little airplanes; JeMM Productions; the Jerusalem Foundation; Teva Pharmaceuticals; Elite, displaying their chocolate; the Yitzhak Rabin Center for Israel Studies; Unitours; the Tourism Ministry; Bank Leumi; and the Dan Hotels, which offered wine, cookies and gourmet chocolate, definitely the stall to check out.

Betsy Melamed, an ex-Bostoner who now lives in Moshav Beit



Harold Adler, GA organizer from New York.

She'arim, signed in at the pre-registration desk holding her one-year-old daughter, Eden, on her hip. "I'll bring her with me all week, as long as she can hold up," smiled Melamed.

By ELLI WOHLGELER

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu issued a warning about the future of the Jewish people to the 5,000 delegates attending the opening of the 67th annual General Assembly of the UJA Federations of North America (GA) in Jerusalem last night.



Hedda Medejuck - all the way from Nova Scotia. (Shem-Tov/Harari)

"The first half century of our life as a state was devoted to securing the life of the state," he said. "I believe the next half century must be devoted to securing the life of the Jewish people, because the threat of annihilation... is an actual process of assimilation, loss of identity and intermarriage which threatens, like a powerful centrifugal force, to tear the Jewish people apart."

The first solution to that threat, he said, is "massive aliyah from every country in the Diaspora, including the United States and Canada."

The opening ceremony of the GA also marked the closing of the Jewish Agency Assembly.

For the delegates in the audience, bridging the gap between the two communities is what this GA is all about.

"We have to start understanding one another, understanding why we do what we do, and how we do it," said Barbara Rosenthal, a trustee of the Cleveland Federation, serving 82,000 Jews. "And I think Americans have to learn the same thing: acceptance, understanding - the mutual respect and the love is there, but there isn't always understanding."

Attending her 25th GA.

Rosenthal, one of 75 delegates from Cleveland, said this one "is a very different agenda - it's not a working session as much as a learning session. That's very different. We will have an opportunity to interact with Israelis in a different kind of way than we have."

Betsy Melamed is straddling the two communities, having lived and worked in the Boston federation, but now living on Moshav Beit She'arim. She signed up to attend this GA because "I wanted to find out what the relationship's going to be when the communities come together, to see who we are and how we decide whether each one's going to go together along the path, or their separate ways. It's important to me as an American, and as an Israeli."

Melamed said that when Israelis visit America, "it's not really important for them to meet other Jews. But maybe Israelis can come and see that there is someone to meet, and there is something to bring home other than some pictures of the Rockies or San Francisco."

She advised the Americans attending the GA to listen to what Israelis have to say, "to try to understand what secular means, for



Barbara Rosenthal - attending her 25th GA. (Shem-Tov/Harari)

instance, to listen to the context of how Israelis celebrate their religion - culturally, religiously, the idea of choices - and being able to live an enriched Jewish life without necessarily labeling yourself."

One of the smaller communities represented was that of Fairfax, Nova Scotia, with 1,500 Jews.



Ex-Bostoner Betsy Melamed, who now lives in Moshav Beit She'arim, brought her daughter Eden to the assembly. (Shem-Tov/Harari)

Hedda Medejuck, co-chair for small communities for the Canadian Jewish Congress and a representative of the federation-affiliated Atlantic Jewish Council, said what she was looking for from Israelis is "to build a relationship, an understanding, an appreciation, a respect - a working relationship."

As for what she hopes to give to Israelis, Medejuck said she just wants to "show them that that we care, that we are willing to help them if they will help us, to tell us what they need. We're dealing with different mentalities."

In her own community, she said, the problem in forging an identity with Israelis is that "we need to get people to come to Israel and see - you can talk a lot, but it's very theoretical. We have to create an awareness. People are afraid, to a lot of them Israel is a foreign thing, and we have to make them realize that they don't have to be afraid of it."

Ethiopian group protests for better education

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

Holding signs reading "equality = equal education" and "education is a right, whether you're black or white," several dozen demonstrators demanding improved education for Ethiopian immigrants held a protest outside the Jerusalem International Convention Center last night.

The protest was sponsored by the Israel Association for Ethiopian Jews, whose leader, Uri Tamari, said the protesters wanted to remind GA participants and particularly Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu about the serious educational problems still facing Ethiopian immigrants.

He noted that Ethiopians make up 15% of all Israelis who drop out of school, even though they only make up only 1.5% of the population.

Tamari added that the number of Ethiopian youngsters who end up in the street or involved in crime is increasing, and that a third of the youth in reform schools are Ethiopian immigrants.

He stressed the need for more programs for Ethiopian youngsters aged three and under, with only 24% of Ethiopian children in this age group attending any kind of day-care program.

Shoshana Ben-Dor, general director of the North American Conference for Ethiopian Jewry's Israel office, said she was protesting, "because we want to keep Jews from the Diaspora aware that while a lot has been done for Ethiopians, there's still a long way to go, and the most sensitive area is education."

"Ethiopians come to Israel with a considerable cultural and educational gap. The existing educational methods have not made it possible for most Ethiopians to close that gap. We know from small programs, like those we run, that with the proper investment of money and thought... it is possible to bring the Ethiopian children to extremely good results in school. So we want people to know there's a long way to go, that they need to do not only more, but better."

Corpus Christi's Jewish community - small but defiant

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

Texas may like to brag they grow things big in the state, but the tiny Jewish community in Corpus Christi takes pride in being small but staying Jewish, according to that town's GA delegate, Jack Solka.

It's not easy being Jewish in Corpus Christi, where the 4-6 families of those in the 800-strong Jewish community who keep kosher have to order their food from San Antonio. There are about 200 families in the Reform synagogue, and about 120-150 in the Conservative synagogue, where the Orthodox Jews remaining in the town go to pray.

Faced with a 50-percent assimilation rate, Jewish education is the key topic at meetings of Corpus Christi Jews.

"We always have the continuing challenge of how to educate our children, so we'll have Jewish grandchildren," said Solka, who's visiting Israel for the first time in 35 years. "That's a personal and a community goal."

"The smaller the community the more difficult it is to educate our children," he explained. Corpus Christi has a combined Hebrew school for children aged 8-12, and a pre-school program at the Jewish



Corpus Christi's delegate Jack Solka. (Shem-Tov/Harari)

Community Center for aged 2-5, "and that's the extent of our Jewish education."

"We seem to export our sons and daughters to larger communities like Houston, Dallas and Austin, primarily because of employment opportunities," Solka said, noting that the non-Jewish residents of Corpus Christi have the same problem.

Solka, 63, who's been working for the local Jewish federation for close to 30 years, said issues regarding Israel, especially the pluralism

issue, had not played themselves out as strongly in his community as elsewhere in the US.

"That's because those of us who've been around for a long time have kept our heads cool, and we've bridged people on both sides. We don't have a lot of divisiveness in our community, because we work at it because we are small."

"When you split 800 Jews, all of a sudden you don't have very much, and we need every Jew in town to work with us, not to show divisiveness among the non-Jewish community."

Solka, on his first GA, recalled his last trip to Jerusalem 35 years ago, saying: "I saw a lot of open space and barbed wire," adding he was amazed by the differences.

While his home Jewish community is dwindling, Solka says attempts are made to convert as many of the non-Jewish spouses of mixed marriages as possible, primarily in the Reform congregation. A defiant Solka insists the community will continue. "It's a matter of upbringing and attitude," he says. "I don't care if I'm in the middle of India. I'm not going to say I'm dying. We take a lot of pride in the fact that our children and grandchildren are Jewish."

Study: Federations less interested in increasing support for Israel

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

Support for increased or even current levels of philanthropic contributions to Israel and other overseas needs is falling among American Jews, according to a study of national professional and volunteer Jewish leadership in the US released yesterday.

Fundraising for Israel is seen as less attractive than for Jewish education and social services, the survey found, and leaders believe money for Israel can more easily be replaced than for other needs.

Fundraising for Israel is also seen as less attractive than it has been in the past, according to the study.

The study, conducted by the Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs, was conducted by Steven Cohen and Gerald Bubis and is the second of three reports from their 1996 American Jewish Leadership Survey. It surveyed over 800 volunteer and professional leaders from several institutions in American Jewish communal life in 1995-96, and had a margin of error of plus or minus 3%.

Asked "to what extent do you find each of these areas attractive as a recipient of federation support?" 58% thought Israel was "very" attractive, 32% "somewhat" and 9% said "a little or not at all."

However, 74% thought Jewish education was very attractive, and 77% said the same about Jewish social and human services.

Only 26% thought it would be impossible or very difficult to replace funding for Israel or other overseas needs, while 56% expressed this concern about Jewish education and 64% about Jewish social and human services.

Asked whether they would want to see more federation dollars go to local needs or overseas, compared to the present division of funds, only 9% said "much more

overseas" and 31% "somewhat more overseas," compared to 19% who said "much more locally" and 39% who said "somewhat more locally."

Assuming a flat campaign, only 5% said they should increase funding for Israel and overseas needs, while 42% said it should stay the same and 51% said it should decrease.

Jewish education got 43% support for an increase and Jewish social and human services 40%.

Cohen and Bubis explained that their study found that older leaders are somewhat more favorable to Israel's needs, as are the more traditional, and those who had visited Israel most recently.

The fact that Israel is no longer seen as a "needy cousin" has also contributed to the thinking, the study found, as has the trend among American Jews to focus on themselves when it comes to Jewish identity and expression.

"In like fashion, on the communal plane, the ties of peoplehood seem to be fraying. Resistance to funding Israel-related causes is part of larger trends toward localism and individualism," the two wrote.

The researchers said the coming to power of the Netanyahu government and the conversion bill controversy - both of which occurred after the study was completed - may have "further diminished American Jewish leaders' support for Israel-bound philanthropy" beyond that reported.

United Jewish Appeal President Richard Wexler took issue with the study, saying a poll taken by his organization showed that most contributors believed the current split of funds between local needs and Israel was 50-50, and if they knew it was otherwise would very likely insist that funds for Israel be increased.

Nonetheless, he acknowledged the trends outlined in the poll.

The art of the shmooze



Liz Jaffe: What happens in the hallway is always more important than what happens inside the rooms. (Shem-Tov/Harari)

from male shmoozing, according to GA consultant Liz Jaffe of Manhattan. "Men are from Mars and women are from Venus," she explained, "but at events like these

we talk about similar things: why we're here, why we care, and how we want to continue this wonderful relationship."

Jaffe said her husband insists that at the GA, "what happens in the hallway is always more important than what happens inside the rooms: the networking and the problem-solving happens in the hallways."

Arthur Jablon, from the San Fernando Valley, and his wife Mady had just convinced Faye Kaplan of Chicago, whose children live in L.A. to volunteer them for his activities in the local federation.

"You can trade an awful lot of information that is off the record, and you can trade an awful lot of ideas about how to solve each other's problems. Because after all, the expert is the person who's from out of town, and in this case we're all out of town, so we're all experts," Jablon said as he, his wife, and Kaplan created one of hundreds of small semi-circles of nodding, gesticulating people who ignored others engaged in a similar ritual around them.



Jeff Solomon: It really is about developing relationships. (Shem-Tov/Harari)

Jeff Solomon: It really is about developing relationships.

"I think the shmoozing part is probably infinitely more important in the end than what goes on at most sessions. It's the corridor talk that allows people to be willing to get to know each other and make connections."

community to community," said *Lilith* editor Susan Weidman Schneider of Washington, D.C., a veteran GA-goer.

"It's also a fantastic opportunity for creative eavesdropping... And what goes on in the women's bathroom is sometimes good conversation, too. You don't want to miss an opportunity to put a face to a name, a byline you've only seen or someone who's authority you've only heard touted."

"The No. 1 requirement here is to shmooze and to get all the good gossip you can possibly get, because everyone has to be in about a thousand different places at a thousand different times. You get the answers here, and if you believe any of them, you're a fool," said Adam Kahani, of Yeshiva University.

It was hard to ignore the endless array of food the King David had put on, but tonight, at least, shmoozing was at least as important as eating, and pausing between sentences for a bite seemed almost inexcusable.

Wimpology in Asia

During the Cold War, political jokers used to quip: "If you're an optimist, learn Russian; if a pessimist, learn Chinese." The jocular prediction implied that if one of the communist blocs did not triumph, the other would. It has since been turned upside down — a futuristic version might say if you're optimistic learn Chinese, if pessimistic learn English.

Already the last great "communist" power has found a sure, less painful, and more successful path to the capitalist market economy than the collapsed Soviet Union. But what about the Asia crisis? What indeed, one may ask, if not what crisis?

If anyone had the nerve to invest in the Asian stock markets earlier this year when panic was running rampant, they would have made a packet. Never mind earlier this year — let's say, from September.

Lemon harvest

All across the crippled Asian states, stock indexes have rebounded like rested tigers. Even the worst, riot-torn Indonesia, has risen 9.2 percent, not a bad return on capital in less than three months. But that's nothing. South Korean markets have risen 30%, Thailand's 58%, and the index in troubled and torn Malaysia has risen 77%.

However, "Asia's USA," also known as powerhouse Japan, has seen its index decline by 1% in the same period. All of this background has set a very confused scene for the current meeting of APEC, the forum for Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, in Kuala Lumpur. Standing back and looking from afar on Asia's swirling mass of political turmoil, economic contradictions, antagonistic personalities, and argumentative societies, one has the feeling of looking into a primordial socio-economic soup. There the future is busy evolving, but no one knows what it will look like.

We journalists love to remind readers of our successful analyses or predictions, but sometimes we'd be better off recalling our lemons. Here's one — exactly five years ago I wrote in an analysis: "Economic conferences come and go, but the weekend meeting of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum in Seattle is more worthy of note than most. Coming at the end of a week which saw the unveiling of a new free market program for China and the US Senate's approval of the North American Free Trade Agreement, the unprecedented 14-nation summit heralded the arrival of a new voice in world affairs... The birth of APEC may prove to be as historically significant as the first meeting of the Coal and Steel Community that led to the present European Union."

Dye-hard
A new voice indeed — APEC

so far has turned out to be a mouse that failed to roar, more wheel and deal than Coal and Steel. So far it is vying only with the Non-aligned Movement in the credibility arena.

"We've agreed that the Asian-Pacific region should be a united one, not divided," said President Bill Clinton at that 1993 meeting.

Column One



Thomas O'Dwyer

"We've agreed that our economic policies should be open, not closed."

Welcome to the lemon club, Bill. Clinton didn't even bother to attend this APEC meeting that is intended to shine some light through the murky clouds of economic debate. The meeting opened with a wrangle between the US and Japan over the not insubstantial sum of \$1.5 trillion.

APEC members account for 55 percent of world trade. That is the amount of trade that needs to be liberalized by removing tariffs on around 10 of the world's most widely traded products. Japan dug its heels in and said no. In a feeble compromise, the delegates agreed to pass the buck of the tariff reduction plan to the World Trade Organization.

The conference is held in the shadow of the world's tallest building, the Petronas Twin Towers, a monument to the hubris of Malaysia's free market spree. Now the Malay pendulum has swung back to economic and political repression, fixed currency, and government diktat. Students peacefully protesting under the towers were battered with tear gas and yellow dye (so they could be identified for later "handling").

What question?

Malaysia, therefore, is a good setting for the conference. It symbolizes the see-saw debate between market freedom and economic barricades — and APEC's own abdication of leadership in confronting the dilemma.

The wimpy pass-the-tariff agreement "reaffirms APEC's leadership in shaping and advancing the global trade agenda," said US trade representative Charlene Barshefsky.

Do these people ever listen to what they are saying? What the US and its supporters had been seeking in Kuala Lumpur was for APEC to approve the "sectoral liberalization plan" (to abolish the tariffs). All they got was Japan's tradition stone-walling — Asia's economic Titanic sailing blissfully onwards while the band plays the same old tune.

All the World Trade Organization should have needed to do was rubber-stamp an APEC agreement into a binding global accord, instead of which, thanks to Japanese sabotage, it has been tossed the whole expensive and time-consuming negotiating progress.

So now, who needs APEC? Or, as William Safire wrote: "Who needs rhetorical questions?"

US, UK reinforce tough line on Iraq

BAGHDAD (Reuters) — The US and Britain reinforced their threat yesterday to strike without warning at Iraq if President Saddam Hussein broke his pledge to cooperate fully with returning UN arms inspectors.

UN personnel, meanwhile, began returning to Iraq after being evacuated last week in the build-up to US-led air raids which were called off twice in the past few days. A UN plane carrying 30 humanitarian workers arrived in Iraq from Jordan.

In Baghdad, UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan's envoy to Iraq, Prakash Shah, urged Iraq to cooperate with the arms inspectors to pave the way for a full review of its troubled relationship with the world body.

"Many members of the Security Council want the question of Iraq's cooperation with the inspectors to be tested and proved on the ground," he told reporters. "If Iraq cooperates fully and unreservedly with the inspections due to begin in the next few days, the comprehensive review to be conducted by the council offers a hopeful sign for the future."

UN officials said 84 weapons inspectors, out of more than 100 evacuated last week during the big US military build-up, would return to Iraq today and the rest tomorrow. UN spokesman Eric Falt said independent monitors employed by Lloyd's Register, a company hired by the UN to certify the arrival of humanitarian goods imported under Iraq's oil-for-food program with the UN, had returned to three border posts and a fourth would be remanned today.

Iraq managed to avoid attacks with only an hour to spare on Saturday when it reversed its two-week-old ban on inspections and promised to allow the UN arms experts to continue ensuring the



UN relief staff wave before their departure from Amman to Baghdad yesterday. Around 150 UN relief staff headed for Iraq to resume work after the US called off military strikes on Baghdad.

country is rid of weapons of mass destruction.

President Bill Clinton, who had the strongest backing from British Prime Minister Tony Blair for punitive attacks, decided on Sunday to call off his bombers and cruise missiles.

Iraqi media have exultantly proclaimed that the decision to let the inspectors back had wrong-footed Washington by removing its pretext for military action in the eyes of the world.

But the US and Britain were resolute in their threats to act if Saddam reneged on Sunday's agreement.

In Washington, Defense Secretary William Cohen told reporters at the Pentagon: "No more hiding and seeking. No more playing games. I think that he [Saddam] has had more than sufficient warning. I don't believe any additional warning is required."

US B-52 and B-1 bombers that had arrived in the region will

remain in place, Cohen said.

But he added he expected that more than 50 fighter jets, including a dozen F-117A stealth attack jets, would return to the US in the coming days from intermediate stops in Europe, though they would remain on alert.

Britain's Blair took a similar line to Cohen. "No warnings, no wrangling, no negotiations, no last-minute letters. The next withdrawal of cooperation and he will be hit," Blair told Parliament.

Russian officials called for UN sanctions on Iraq to be lifted and warned that the Iraq crisis was far from over, despite Baghdad's climbdown over inspections.

US officials revealed Clinton had called off not one, but two attacks against Iraq. They said he postponed the first on Saturday when he learned Iraq planned to issue a letter allowing UN inspections to resume, and the second on Sunday after two more letters saying Baghdad's offer was without conditions.

First convictions handed down for Serb atrocities

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) — Appalled by what they called "singular brutality" and "calculating cruelty," UN judges yesterday handed down the first international convictions for atrocities committed against Bosnian Serbs.

A three-judge panel at the Yugoslav war crimes tribunal convicted a Bosnian Croat and two Moslems for murdering, torturing and raping Serb prisoners in 1992.

But they also acquitted Zejnil Delalic, a Moslem military commander accused of having overall control of the Celebici camp in central Bosnia, saying there was not enough evidence to link him to the atrocities.

Prosecutors said they would appeal the acquittal.

"The evidence... was sufficient to convict the accused," said Deputy Prosecutor Graham Blewitt.

The 20-month trial was the tribunal's first to concentrate on atrocities against Serbs — who are blamed for the majority of war crimes carried out during the 3 1/2-year Bosnian conflict.

Celebici inmates were murdered, tortured and raped by camp staff, witnesses said in emotional testimony.

"We have been appalled by the details of your criminal actions," Presiding Judge Adolphus Karibi-Whyte of Nigeria told the camp's deputy commander, Hazim Delic, a Moslem sentenced to 20 years in prison for the murder, rape and torture of prisoners.

"You displayed a singular brutality in causing the deaths of two men... and a calculating cruelty in the torture and mistreatment of many others," Karibi-Whyte said. Chewing gum given to him by a UN guard, Delic showed no emotion when he heard the verdicts.

In their 483-page ruling, the judges said Delic — the first defendant the tribunal has convicted of rape — appeared "to take a sadistic pleasure in causing the detainees pain."

The camp's warden, Bosnian Croat Zdravko Mucic, was found guilty of 11 war crimes and grave breaches of the Geneva Conventions for overseeing guards who murdered nine Serbs

and tortured six.

His conviction was the first by an international court on the basis of "command responsibility" since post-World War II tribunals in Nuremberg and Tokyo convicted Nazi and Japanese superiors for the crimes of their subordinates.

Mucic, wearing dark sunglasses and a cross, smiled as he heard his sentence of seven years imprisonment. Blewitt said he was considering appealing the "inadequate" sentence.

A camp guard, Esad Landzo, was ordered jailed for 15 years for murdering three inmates and torturing others.

Prosecutors said Landzo and Delic beat to death one man and nailed a Moslem political party's badge to his head, and that Landzo also beat a 60-year-old man to death with a wooden plank.

Although they were convicted, Mucic, Delic and Landzo also were acquitted of 34 charges, including several counts of murder and torture. All four had faced up to life imprisonment.

MOSCOW (Reuters) — German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder vowed yesterday to help Russia make its anti-crisis plan internationally acceptable, but said Bonn could no longer dip into its own pocket to provide financial help.

In town for his first visit to Russia since defeating Helmut Kohl in September's general election, the 54-year-old Social Democrat also made clear he wanted to shift the emphasis away from personal ties with ailing President Boris Yeltsin.

"We believe the economic program developed by the Russian government is a good start to make progress within the framework of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund," Schroeder told reporters.

The IMF has yet to release the latest tranche in a loan package because it is unhappy with Russia's economic proposals.

An IMF team arrives in Moscow tomorrow for more talks.

Speaking after meeting Prime Minister Yevgeny Primakov, Schroeder said cooperation means coming up with a program that would be internationally acceptable — an implicit signal Bonn also believes the plan does not yet make the grade.

Germany is prepared to assist with specific projects rather than provide general bilateral help, he said.

"Germany has run out of possibilities in this respect," he said. Germany is Russia's largest trading partner and foreign lender with

debt exposure of more than 75 billion marks (\$44.35 billion), including 30.5 billion marks owed to commercial banks.

Asked whether Schroeder had discussed Russia's foreign debt, Primakov said: "There are some small secrets which must remain between us."

Ever the diplomat, he said Schroeder's most important meeting would be with Yeltsin today. Schroeder was similarly tactful, but his message was unmistakable.

"Relations between peoples must be independent of governments, on that we agreed," he said. "That's why I am looking forward to my meeting with President Yeltsin. But at the same time I want to make clear that irrespective of good personal ties, relations between Germany and Russia belong on a very, very broad footing."

He will meet opposition politicians and regional leaders, some of them likely presidential contenders, later in the day.

Schroeder said bilateral relations were "very good" and that he and Primakov had agreed to consult regularly by telephone — something that was a feature of the Kohl-Yeltsin partnership.

The German leader said he and Primakov had discussed how to improve conditions for foreign investors spooked by Russia's crisis, how to make the government's economic plan acceptable, and international relations, particularly Iraq and the Balkans.

Lewinsky lands major book deal

NEW YORK (Reuters) — Monica Lewinsky has agreed to a seven-figure deal for a book on the White House sex scandal, to be authored by Princess Diana's biographer, The New York Post reported yesterday.

The newspaper said the former White House intern, whose affair with US President Bill Clinton has threatened his presidency, has also reached agreement with ABC television for an interview with Barbara Walters.

The interview would be broad-

cast to coincide with the release of the book in February, the Post said.

It said St. Martin's Press landed the deal for the North American rights on Lewinsky's story, to be told to British author Andrew Morton. He became Princess Diana's official biographer when he secretly received tapes from her that revealed her unhappiness with Prince Charles and the royal family.

His book, *Diana: Her True Story*, became a best seller when it

was published in 1992. When Princess Diana was killed in a car crash in Paris last year, it was revised and republished under the title: *Diana: Her True Story — In Her Own Words*. The Post said St. Martin's executives met with Morton and Lewinsky in New York last week and completed the deal Friday.

KUALA LUMPUR (AP) — US Vice President Al Gore yesterday indirectly supported a burgeoning reform movement in Malaysia which has called for greater political freedoms and an end to Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad's 17-year rule.

Gore, in a dinner speech to leaders of some of the world's largest corporations, said that robust

global markets depend on freedom and democracy.

"History has taught us that freedom — economic, political, and religious freedom — unlocks a higher fraction of the human potential than any other way of organizing society," said Gore, who stepped in for President Bill Clinton at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit.

Gore lauds Malaysian protesters

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As part of its ongoing efforts to aid in the absorption of Israel's Ethiopian community, JDC-Israel announces a conference on the topic

The Ethiopian Community: The Psychological Price of Migration

The conference, to be held in early 1999, will feature the presentation of research findings on the subject, as well as programs developed to address the issue. The presentations will be followed by a discussion of both the findings and the programs.

Those wishing to present their research or programmatic activity in the field are invited to submit brief abstracts (up to 200 words) of their proposed presentation to:

Nivi Dayan, JDC-Israel, JDC-Hill P.O. Box 3489 Jerusalem, 91034 The deadline for submissions is December 31, 1998

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Bridging the divide

The historic convening in Jerusalem of this year's General Assembly of UJA Federations of North America – the GA – is more than a recognition of Israel's jubilee year. It is a massive and overdue get-acquainted session between the world's two largest concentrations of Jews, who are embarking on a new form of relationship between them.

Tomorrow, the 3,500 North American delegates will fan out across the country for 38 separate "Seminars on Wheels" on topics ranging from Jewish identity to the absorption of Ethiopian immigrants to "Caring for the Elderly: From Pioneer to Pensioner." For many of both the North American and Israeli participants, it will be the first time that community activists assemble to compare notes and experience the other's world first hand.

Just as Winston Churchill once described England and America as "two countries separated by a common language," the strength of the bond between Diaspora Jews and Israel masks great gaps in understanding between the two worlds. For decades, Israelis either could not understand or took for granted the central role that Israel played in maintaining American Jewish identity. American Jews, for their part, discovered during the fight over the conversion bill that American-style religious pluralism barely exists in Israel, though neither the religious nor secular camps are as monolithic as they may seem at a superficial glance.

In some ways, the perception of familiarity – Israelis with American pop culture, American Jews with their stereotypes of the gruff, pioneering, backward Israeli – have made the process of developing a more sophisticated understanding more difficult. Certainly, the giver-recipient relationship – established well before Israel's founding – has made a bridging of the cultural divide that much more difficult. Bringing the GA to Israel was a brilliant baby step in bridging this divide, and of symbolizing the beginning of a new relationship as Israel enters its next 50 years.

The one-way giver-recipient relationship created resentment and insecurities that will not be erased overnight, but the changing circumstances on both sides of the ocean are ripe for shaping a very different paradigm. North American Jews and Israelis now have a great deal to offer each other, particularly in addressing the needs that have most recently come to the fore in each community. American Jewry

has rightly become obsessed with "continuity" – a nice word for survival – as they have become victims of their own success within American society. Though American Jews are as politically influential as they have ever been (there will be an egalitarian minyan-plus-one in the United States Senate), their numbers are dwindling.

In a chilling essay in the May 11 *Weekly Standard*, Charles Krauthammer calculates that, based on current figures for fertility, intermarriage, and whether Jewish children are raised as Jews, 7 out of 10 American Jews will vanish in just two generations. Along the way, American Jews are also losing their ties to Israel: a recent study by Hebrew University sociologist Steven Cohen found that only one quarter of American Jews believe that Israel is very important to them.

Though Israel cannot provide any panaceas to the American Jewish existential crisis, it certainly can be part of a solution. The unveiling at this GA of "Birthright," the massive new program to fund a trip to Israel for every North American Jewish 17 year old, reflects the hope that exposure to Israel can jump-start Jewish identity. In a further reflection of the new paradigm in Israel-Diaspora relations, the Birthright program will receive substantial funding from the Israeli government.

Now that the tables are turning somewhat, and Israel is able to provide financial and identity assistance to American Jewry, it is also time for Israel to recognize that America has more to offer this country than money and volunteer spirit. In the decades ahead, the debate that wracked Israeli society over peace and security is likely to dissipate, and a range of issues set aside until now will come to the fore. Israel must find its own way in healing the rifts among the secular, national-religious, and haredi camps; American-Jewish democratic and pluralistic traditions have much to offer Israel in this effort. American solutions are not necessarily right for Israel, but American methods of reaching solutions are badly needed, as is the comparative richness of the American debate on economic, social, and legal matters.

This richness is reflected in the myriad concerns and organizations represented at the GA and in the energy and commitment of its delegates. For the sake of both communities, this first GA in Israel should begin a new tradition for the years to come.

Don't let terror prevail

YOSSI BEILIN

None of the hundred or so MKs who plan to support the Wye Memorandum today would be willing to bet that it will actually be implemented. Even after the signing and Knesset approval, it is still difficult to know if what was signed will be realized over the next 12 weeks.

Some people still suspect Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's true intentions. There are also those who believe that the Palestinians will not fulfill their part of the agreement and many who fear the terrorists on both sides of the divide may act and bring everything to a halt.

There is an enormous difference between the process being halted by bad will on leaders' part and it stopping as a result of extremist elements who are prepared to pay the price, to the extent of sacrificing themselves, to torpedo the entire process.

Since the initial implementation of the Oslo Accords, there has been an unwritten agreement between Israel and the Palestinians, granting the right of veto to the terrorists.

The first halt in the talks followed the Baruch Goldstein massacre at the Machpelah Cave. Then it was the Palestinians who backed away from the negotiating table. Forty days later, with the car bombing in Afula, a long string of Palestinian acts of terror began. Israel, too, responded by halting the talks.

This instinctive reaction by both parties is one of the less prudent phenomena that has emerged in recent years. Extremist Jews and Palestinians have gained immense power, aware that if they succeed in carrying out an attack, they will also succeed in achieving their real goal: stopping the process which they believe to be a disaster.

reaching a compromise with those one must not compromise with and granting a concession which they think would be an irrevocable historical error.

EXTREMIST acts were to be expected. Just as the final lap is reached, in almost any historical conflict, those who believe that any compromise is synonymous with betrayal appear. They present themselves as the "trustees" of the idea which the leaders have allegedly betrayed, and attempt to stop the train they think is traveling into oblivion.

On the eve of South Africa's first democratic elections in 1994, more people were killed than throughout the preceding years. Extremists aspired to lead both parties to end the reconciliation out of fear that after the elections the bloodletting would escalate.

But both blacks and whites were brave enough to continue, and proved that it was possible to live in peace from that time on.

In Ireland, something similar is happening. There are Catholic and Protestant groups who believe that the agreement that has been reached there is a fatal error. As if by the book, Catholic extremists established "The Real IRA," a clear hint that the IRA had betrayed its goals and that they were replacing it, to bring terror back to the streets of Belfast, fuel Protestant hatred and feelings of revenge and prevent the agreement from being implemented.

Here, too, however, common sense prevailed. A short time after 28 innocent civilians were murdered in Omagh in Northern Ireland, Catholics and Protestants together announced that they would not allow acts of terror to stop the peace process. The result

Dry Bones



was surprising: "The Real IRA" declared that it was suspending its program of terrorism.

THESE examples from around the world should show us the way. Both Israelis and Palestinians have paid a heavy price for the automatic response of halting the talks following acts of terrorism. There is no clearer surrender to terror.

The way to limit the incentive for acts of sabotage – aside from directly combating them, which in itself is a vital struggle – is to declare in advance that no such action will prevent the process from continuing.

A few days ago I proposed a short draft agreement to Netanyahu and Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat, stating that both sides

commit themselves to fighting terror, but would not submit to it and would not stop the peace process as a result of terror unless they are convinced beyond any doubt that the other side has turned a blind eye to the planning of terror acts by persons under its jurisdiction.

I believe that an agreement of this kind could be signed. Even if the various terrorist bodies do not declare their intention to suspend their activities, they would soon find that their attempts to wreak havoc are meaningless, as both sides have shown they are determined to move forward.

All that is needed now is to do what so many people believe is inevitable – to reach a mutual commitment that terror will not prevail.

Abdication of responsibility

EVELYN GORDON

Last week's cabinet vote on the Wye accord was a disgrace, no matter what one thinks about the agreement.

The accord passed by a vote of 8-4, with five abstentions. This means that almost one-third of the cabinet – Limor Livnat, Tzahi Hanegbi, Moshe Katsav, Silvan Shalom and Yehoshua Matza – could not be bothered to take a stand on the most crucial diplomatic decision of this government's tenure.

This is not to say that abstentions have no place in political life. For starters, the average politician is asked to vote on dozens of issues per week. No human being could possibly develop an informed opinion on all of them, and most are far from earth-shattering in any case. It is quite legitimate for a legislator to focus on some issues while sitting out on others.

The more popular use of the abstention is as a protest vote; which is the sense in which the ministers who abstained on Wye claim to be using it. It is a way of saying I approve the policy in principle, but oppose the method of implementation proposed in this bill. However, terming an abstention a protest vote does not change the basic nature of the act: Any abstention is always an abdication of responsibility. It means letting the issue be decided by those who care enough to vote yes or no.

For this reason, an abstention is completely inappropriate on an

issue of major national importance because there is no middle road on implementation.

An agreement, or a bill, will either be implemented or it will not. And so the decision that has to be made is not whether the item on the table is the best conceivable

demand a share of the credit on the grounds that they did not vote against it. Either way, they will have clean hands; the god of the Israeli politician's idolatry.

In fairness to the ministers who abstained on Wye, they are merely following a long political tradition

The man on the street has the right to refuse to decide. But Knesset members and ministers have no such out

able, but whether acceptance or rejection of that particular document, with all its flaws, would be the lesser evil.

It is precisely this kind of difficult decision that Knesset members and ministers are elected to make. The man on the street has the right to refuse to decide. He can reasonably say, I am paying someone wiser and more knowledgeable than myself to make the decision. But Knesset members and ministers have no such out.

Unfortunately, too many of them prefer to reject this responsibility. The real attraction of an abstention, to most politicians, is precisely the fact that it lets them avoid this onus. If Wye turns out to be a failure, the abstainers will claim that they are innocent, since they did not vote for it. If it turns out to be a success, they will

of evading responsibility. Even worse, it is a tradition that appears to be sanctioned by the voters. Shas, for instance, abstained on the first Oslo Accord, which was certainly one of the most fateful in Israeli history. Yet its voters, far from punishing this cowardice, rewarded the party at the ballot box: Shas rose from six seats in the last Knesset to 10 in the current one. So perhaps, if our elected officials play the coward, we are only getting what we deserve.

But it must be remembered that the Israeli electoral system, where people vote for party lists rather than for individual candidates, makes it very difficult to punish a specific Knesset member. How could someone who favored Wye, for instance, ensure that if he voted for the Likud again, his vote would not re-elect the five abstainers? It

is precisely for this reason that the majority of MKs are so opposed to instituting direct elections: it enables them to evade responsibility for their actions indefinitely.

Following last week's municipal elections – whose 50 percent voter turnout was the lowest in Israel's history – many MKs claimed to be shocked and worried by the voters' abdication of their democratic responsibilities.

Coalition Chairman Meir Sheerit (Likud), one of only three Likud MKs who abstained in the vote on the first Oslo Accord, even said he plans to submit a bill modeled on Australian law, whereby citizens who do not vote would be fined. This is surely the height of gall: An elected official, paid to decide issues of national importance, avoids voting on one of the most important agreements in the country's history and then calls for sanctions against the public for failing to vote in largely unimportant local races.

Instead of trying to reform the voters, MKs should set their own house in order.

The institution of direct elections would be the best way to do so, but sanctions against MKs or ministers who fail to vote on important issues might be a necessary interim measure.

MKs and ministers are paid to take responsibility. If they are not willing to do so, they have no business wasting the public's money. The only decent thing for the abstainers to do is to resign.

Needed: Women leaders

MARLENE E. POST

Miriam Fireburg's election as mayor of Netanya was such an anomaly that it was widely hailed as the first woman head of an Israeli city. In fact she was the second – Rishon LeZion had already elected a woman mayor back in the 1950s. But two more generations would go by before a second woman would be handed the city gavel.

The good news of the recent municipal elections is that more women than ever before entered the race: the 30 women who vied for the top positions and the 400 others who ran for city council are proof of a growing understanding that without political representation women will not enjoy full protection and expression of their rights. The primary challenge we face today is how to encourage more women to enter the political arena.

Not so long ago women believed that a simple change in the electoral system would alleviate the inequality. But the dismal placement of women on party lists even after the primary system was introduced showed that the problem would not be solved by merely providing women an opportunity to participate. Women voters, like male voters, do not support women candidates. The solution, we have learned, is far more complex. A strategic campaign to create a potent pool of women candi-

dates and experienced support teams must be set in motion.

The recent elections may have been the first real step forward in creating the culture necessary for a dramatic shift in the division of political power. The efforts undertaken by Israel's major women's organizations, who joined forces in a national drive to increase the

First, American women came to understand that with women constituting more than 50 percent of the voting public, success will depend on the ability to tap into that tremendous electoral power base. Through unification and coalition, women in America began pooling their resources and talent.

The primary challenge we face today is how to encourage more women to enter the political arena

number of women in politics, resulted in an unprecedented level of participation by women in the local races.

In the United States, women have done that, been there, and are already moving on to statewide and federal positions. As opposed to only one woman minister in Israel's cabinet, President Clinton has appointed a record number of women, including the secretary of state and attorney-general.

Women still have a long way to go in US politics, but important strides have been made and critical lessons learned. These lessons can also apply in Israel.

Secondly, funding is critical. Early campaign money imperative. Five of the six new women elected to the House of Representatives this month were backed by EMILY's List, a national funding channel for Democratic women candidates for federal office. There are also successful Republican and bipartisan women's political action committees.

Third, women have to be educated, both as candidates and as voters. Talented, dynamic women with leadership potential must be identified, cultivated and prepared. Fundraisers and campaign teams

must be trained. And, perhaps most importantly, financially independent women capable of attracting additional money for women candidates must be found. The White House Project, an initiative of the Ms. Foundation for Women, is working hard to create the necessary climate in which a qualified woman could be elected to presidency within the next decade.

During this week's gathering in Jerusalem of the leadership of North American Jewry, Israeli and American women working for the advancement of women in politics will meet. The Committee for the Advancement of Women in Politics in Israel and the US-based IAC Educational Foundation have organized this important opportunity to help Jewish women strengthen our partnership and resolve.

Let us determine this year in Jerusalem that we will enter the 21st century together, more committed to Israel and the Jewish people, but also more committed to moving women into positions of political power. It is time that the fresh thinking and unique perspectives that women offer be brought to bear on the policies and decisions that shape all of our lives.

The writer is national president of Hadassah Women's Zionist Organization of America

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

INQUITOUS ARRANGEMENT

Sir, – Yosef Goell's article "Complete direct election reform" (November 16), is wrong from the first word to the last. The system that he supports (direct election of the prime minister) is an intellectual disgrace. So long as it exists, Israel will not have a moral right to call itself a democracy.

The direct election of the prime minister exalts the prime minister's office to the rank of a virtual despotism. In order to give effect to the prime minister's powers we have given Benjamin Netanyahu the powers of such leaders as former president Mobutu, former emperor Bokassa and Chief of State Castro. All powers converge on a

single individual. This, at a time when the distribution of powers is universally regarded as the index of real democracy.

The representative virtue is well expressed in the United States where the presidential function is limited and offset by judicial review, a totally independent legislature and the existence of governorates which hold formidable powers.

In our own case, the electoral system has led us close to corruption in the Bar-On Affair, and has advanced us toward totalitarianism through the eccentric concentration of powers in the hands of a single citizen.

Other results – all of them pre-

dictable – have been the dwarfing and stunting of historic parties, the reduction of the Knesset to a medley of small pressure groups and the creation of a situation in which even a vote of 79 percent would not guarantee us against the outrage of minority government.

The direct election of a single individual citizen (without any provision of a legal succession!) does not have a single parallel in the entire democratic world.

The only good fortune is that this iniquitous arrangement is under legitimate criticism and may soon be on the way out.

ABBA EBAN

Herzliya.

WASSERSTEIN'S BOOK

Sir, – I was astonished to read the headline of your London correspondent's "Report: Britain's wartime record on Jews blemished" (November 5), describing a recently published booklet as if a great historical discovery had been made of a hitherto unknown fact.

This shameful story was first described in its entirety in 1979 in Bernard Wasserstein's *Britain and the Jews of Europe 1939-1945*.

commissioned by the London Institute of Jewish Affairs of the World Jewish Congress and published by Oxford University Press. The work is based on contemporary archival material in the British Public Record Office and other archives.

It sold out so fast that a second printing had to be made and it since has also appeared in paperback. The high critical acclaim in the British and overseas press

(including *The Jerusalem Post*) earned Wasserstein the offer of a professorship by Brandeis University among many others. I would be greatly surprised if Professor Caesarani did not give due acknowledgment to Wasserstein's book in his 21-page booklet.

DR. ELIZABETH E. EPPLER

Jerusalem.

FOOTBALL ON METV

Sir, – Channel 2 wants METV barred from cable channels in Israel.

Is Channel 2 willing to broadcast the NFL games we now only

get on METV, since the Communications Ministry shut down Channel 17? Also, why are NFL games on METV in Hebrew over English, when only

Americans watch them?

STAN HAYES

Upper Nazareth.

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

65 years ago: On November 17, 1933, *The Palestine Post* reported on the new, strict government measures against illegal immigration and the overstay of visas. The Palestine Police offered rewards for denouncing illegal immigrants.

The Nesher cement factory reported that it worked day and night on three shifts to meet a

heavy demand, but had to postpone development plans for lack of workmen.

50 years ago: On November 17, 1948, *The Palestine Post* reported that the UN Security Council appealed to Jews and Arabs to negotiate a permanent armistice.

The era of political deportation

practiced by the Mandatory Government in Palestine came to a close with the homecoming of 260 men who had spent years as detainees in Kenya.

All men between 16 and 55 and women between 17 and 50 who were not on active service became liable for picking citrus.

Alexander Zvielli

150 من الاموال

A high-tech, user-friendly 'Magic Flute'

OPERA REVIEW

By MAXIM REIDER

The New Israeli Opera's *Little Magic Flute* is an opera in two acts after Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte*.

This new production is addressed to modern youngsters

THE MAGIC FLUTE

By Mozart
Noga Theater, Jaffa
November 5

Making their first encounter with the opera. The idea is to whet their appetite for more, and it works.

The *Magic Flute* is actually an obvious choice for a teaser. It is a fairy tale with murder, no earthly love, nor even real drama, yet it is unquestionably a musical masterpiece.

The British director Michael McCaffery, who created not only this "user-friendly" adaptation, but the sets as well, strips down from the original version's Freemasonry connotations and all sacred and mystic symbols (which more than a few adults are unable to understand) and leaves a simple story of a beautiful prince who rescues the beautiful princess.

Like it or not the place where the kids of today feel most at home is the virtual reality of the Internet. For them it is no less real than

were dragons and monsters for Mozart's contemporaries.

Thus, the characters turn into sort of Power Rangers in funny costumes (by designer Paul Edwards), the Three Ladies' spears into futuristic guns, Papageno's magic chimes into a magic tape recorder, and the whole set into one big and absolutely fascinating computer game with a lot of exciting effects: gleaming screens, laser beams, exotic fish, stars and planets floating in the darkness, dancing animals and whatnot.

And this game is interactive — from the opening scene the director brings on stage three schoolgirls, with whom the young audience can easily identify.

The opera is sung in Hebrew — Ehud Manor's language is simple and witty and flows easily. The show is hilarious without being vulgar, and educates without being didactic or boring, teaching some unsophisticated edifying truths, such as "don't lie and boast, or your mouth will be locked like that of simpleton Papageno."

HOW does poor Mozart survive all these transformations? Don't worry, he fares fine; this opus is so rich, that even a part of it still is a great fortune. The only way to spoil it is to perform it badly, which does not happen here. The NIO team knows very well what it is trying to achieve, and its love of the music and good taste are evident.

The compact orchestra of 15

musicians (the production will travel all over the country) sounds good under the devoted baton of Menahem Nebenzahl, and the all-Israeli cast makes one wonder whether the time has come for the NIO to consider reducing the number of not-always-exciting soloists invited from abroad. In recent years, more than a few vocal talents have been flourishing at home.

On the whole, the singing is very good, and the diction of the soloists, for most of whom Hebrew is not their mother tongue, is clear.

In his first major Israeli role, tenor Felix Livshitz, whose stylish singing is reminiscent of the masters of the past, makes a romantic and naive Tamino; the ironic remarks of the three little schoolgirls whom he befriends never let him act overly heroic.

Bright soprano Marina Levitt's Pamina is capricious and Barbie-looking, while Marina Shemesh, whose star is hopefully rising in the NIO, showcases her vivid voice as the First Lady. Dan Etinger sings and acts the bird-catcher Papageno in the most comic manner. Riki Guy's Papageno is sexy, Sami Bechar's Monostatos is ridiculous and the Sarastro of Vladimir Braun more than impressive.

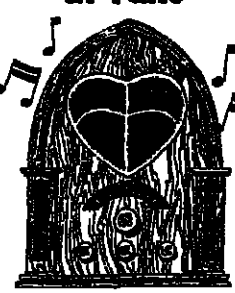
To top it all off, the humane dimensions and warm acoustics of the Noga Theater, which once was the NIO's home, fits this delightful show to perfection.



As portrayed by bright soprano Marina Levitt, Pamina (second left) is a capricious Barbie-doll lookalike.

Lennon & McCartney serve themselves

In Tune



By David Brinn

John Lennon was brilliant as a Beatle, and somewhat less so as a solo artist.

Unencumbered by the constraints of his mop-top mates, especially the more pop-minded Paul McCartney, the solo Lennon was able to wallow in heavy-



Linda McCartney was given carte blanche in the studio.

Serve Somebody" called "Serve Yourself," which he recorded at home in 1979, all point to a major talent paralyzed by self-righteousness.

The disc is packaged professionally with some rare photos, an entertaining opening essay by Ono, and thorough track-by-track information. Lennon deserves such a compilation, and judging by the teasers on *Wonsaponatime*, *The John Lennon Anthology* ably recaps the good, the bad and the ugly that was John Lennon.

ONLY the Maharishi could explain the instant karma of Lennon's disc reaching the shops at same time as the first solo effort by the late Linda McCartney, *Wide Prairie*.

The irony of Yoko and Paul, the main movers behind the two discs, battling it out on the charts 30 years after they battled it out in the studio and the media, is too delicious to ignore.

Linda McCartney was many things — a wonderful photographer; an admirable animal rights, environmental and vegetarian activist; and by all accounts a loving and supportive wife. One thing she was not, if the 16 tracks of *Wide Prairie* is indicative, is a songwriter or a singer.

Written and recorded sporadically throughout their joint career (1969-1998), *Wide Prairie* is simply an embarrassing effort in which the devoted husband gives his spirited wife carte blanche in the studio.

The songs range from banal to juvenile, and Linda's singing is often grating and out of tune. Paul's a professional though, and his involvement raises the musical level to at least the modest heights he's scaled in the last 30 years.

As a sign of devotion to his wife, *Wide Prairie* is a noble effort. As a valid pop statement, it's a noble failure.

TODAY'S most successful purveyors of Beatles pop, Oasis, has released *The Masterplan*, a collection of B-sides from the band's decade-long career.

Only a select group of rockers, to which the Gallagher brothers belong, could put together a B-

sides disc almost as strong as a regular disc, and its cohesiveness only further demonstrates their prolific songwriting capabilities.

The Masterplan doesn't vary much from Oasis's normal releases, and its loud-but-clear sound is a welcome change from the histrionic over-the-top production of its most recent disc, *Be Here Now*. Only a couple pedestrian rockers and a lame live version of "I Am The Walrus" fail to make the grade that the band has set with its maddeningly catchy material.

With its rock 'n' roll hooks out front, its roaring guitars in back and those broad vowels pronounced everywhere, Oasis is still fab.

FORMER teen idol Robbie Williams makes an impressive foray into adulthood with *I've Been Expecting You*. The bad boy of early 1990s phenoms Take That, Williams has forged a solo career that is tougher than his previous persona.

The 23-year-old Londoner makes like George Michael on the soulful "Phoenix from the Flame," and elsewhere leaps from singer/songwriter contemplations to middle-weight dance pop with the greatest of ease. Take that, all you naysayers.

DEEP Purple — either you love 'em or hate 'em, and 30: *Very Best Of* (referring to 30 years, not 30 songs, thank God) isn't going to change anyone's mind. For my money the 18 tracks are nine too many, as any worth the band may have accrued in its early years had gone into escrow by the mid 1970s.

But "Smoke on the Water" still stokes the fires with its monster riff. That, and the numerous variations on the theme included here, for better or worse, launched a million air guitars and paved the way for every head-banging clone that followed.

Listening to today's heavy metal, it becomes clear that Deep Purple was far more influential than other, more critically acclaimed, heavy bands of its day — like Cream and Led Zeppelin. Who would have thought it?

Roseanne seeks Jewish husbands

By TOM TUGEND

Actress and talk-show queen Roseanne is looking for a few good Jewish men — objective matrimony. Not for herself, quickly adds the thrice-married and divorced actress, but for her three unmarried daughters.

Roseanne's pitch, delivered on her own syndicated show in the US and a few days ago on the Howard Stern show, runs, verbatim, as follows: "Are you a normal guy? Are you a single, Jewish, successful, marriage-minded male who is free of any criminal record? Do you have most of your teeth? If you have answered yes to all these questions and you are not some money-sucking leech then I have the perfect mate for you."

"I am looking for three normal, healthy, Jewish, single men who are psychologically sound and mentally stable and do not smoke."

"I have three, count-em three, beautiful, single daughters who some day I would like to see married and give me some grandchildren, but with the losers they keep bringing home that doesn't seem likely."

"If you like girls who never get up, always complain and who are lazy and smoke, I've got the girl for you. I require that you have a mother who you think I will get along with, and since the objective is grandchildren, your mother must understand that I am the alpha-grandmother."

"I am asking you out there if you think you have what it takes to date one of my daughters."



Roseanne

Please make a videotape of five minutes or less telling me why you think I should let you date one of my beauties. Three lucky victims, I mean winners, will be chosen and we will fly you out here to go on a date with my daughters. Good luck!"

This talking matrimonial ad may be just a bit unorthodox, but it's for real, affirms Roseanne's publicist, Matt Labov. There actually are three single daughters — namely Brandi, 27, Jessica, 23 and Jennifer, 22.

Applicants from outside the United States are welcome. "The Roseanne Show" runs in 30 countries, so any man can enter, as long as he's Jewish," says Labov.

So far responses have been limited. "I guess a lot of the guys are shy," ventures Labov. Interested nice Jewish boys are invited to mail their videotapes to Date My Daughters, The Roseanne Show, P.O. Box 48558, Los Angeles, CA 90048, USA.

Israel Ballet highlights Ravel's bittersweet poetry

DANCE REVIEW

The Israel Ballet's premiere of its new acquisition, "La Valse" — created by George Balanchine in 1951 and set to music by Maurice Ravel — was an adequate

THE ISRAEL BALLET
TAPAC
November 9

performance. Ravel composed "La Valse" in 1912, canonizing the Viennese waltz prior to WWI, a time when long lace gowns had become obsolete and a new social order was replacing the old. The dance is a staged ballroom scene where couples dance under the shadow of death. Dancers Nina Gershman and Bogdan

Khvoinsky stood out in their performance of this bittersweet poetic work.

Another recent addition to the company's dance repertoire is "Troy Games," choreographed by Robert North in 1978 for a group of male dancers. The dance, set to vivacious Brazilian Batokada music with Peruvian and Indian motifs, was an immediate hit with many repertory companies in the '80s, including Batsheva.

Although most of the Israel Ballet's male dancers have better training today than the Batsheva troupe had at that time, none of the dancing compared with the individual distinction and flavor that old-timers like Haim Onn or David Dvir brought to their portrayal.

The classically disciplined dancers of the Israel Ballet didn't loosen up enough. Even a great dancer like Eldar Mukamatchen could have easily soared higher, as could have most of the company, if they would have exploited the innumerable theatrical possibilities that this mischievous work provides.



Concert Review

majority of the local audience was the Japanese repertory.

A great variety of immensely colorful and fascinating folk songs from various regions were performed, though in arranged versions.

Those by Michio Mamiya represented the first modernist folklore-related attempts of the Fifties. A more imaginative approach was adopted by Toru Takemitsu in his setting of *Sakura*, the "Cherry Blossom" song.

A highly refined court dance from

More Japanese please

By Ury Eppstein

SHINONOME CHOIR

Jerusalem Theater
November 16

The Shinonome Choir of the Japan Christian Friends of Israel presented a selection of Japanese, Hebrew and even some Yiddish songs during its eighth goodwill visit conducted by Takeo Sato and Toru Nakamura.

Most attractive for the local audience was the Japanese repertory.

A great variety of immensely colorful and fascinating folk songs from various regions were performed, though in arranged versions.

Those by Michio Mamiya represented the first modernist folklore-related attempts of the Fifties. A more imaginative approach was adopted by Toru Takemitsu in his setting of *Sakura*, the "Cherry Blossom" song.

A highly refined court dance from

Okinawa, now a part of Japan but formerly an independent kingdom, was particularly intriguing in its movement, tonality, costume and use of bamboo castanets, all fundamentally different from the tradition of Japan's main islands.

A cantata-like work by Sato, "The Lake of Kinneret," was contemporary yet Romantic in style and displayed interpolations of Hassidic music quotations.

A selection of Hebrew songs was performed with caressingly soft voices and clear enunciation that might well serve as a model for many an Israeli choir. The singers' sincere emotional involvement and identification with these songs was genuinely moving.

An increase of the little-known Japanese repertory, even at the expense of some of the familiar Hebrew songs, would have been welcome.



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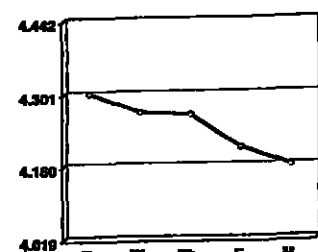
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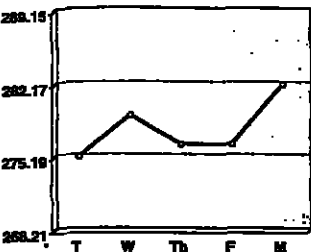
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in brief

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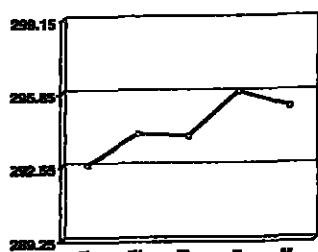


MAOF INDEX



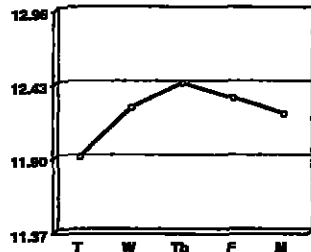
GOLD

\$ per ounce

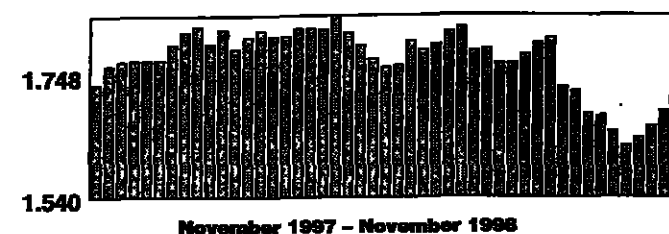


OIL

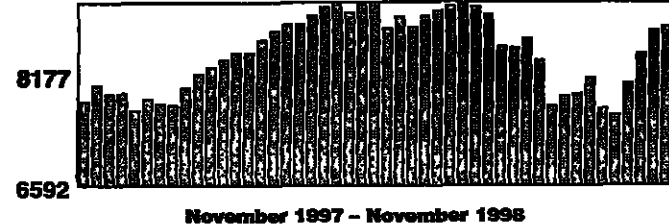
\$ per barrel of Brent crude



DOLLAR / DEUTSCHEMARK



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Electricity prices to rise 6.5%

The cost of household electricity will rise 6.545 percent from Sunday to 30.65 agorot per kilowatt hour, the Public Utilities Authority-Electricity announced yesterday.

The principle reason for the hike is the sharp increase in the consumer price index, which accounts for 70 percent of the make-up of electricity prices.

David Ziv Harris

Top postman quits

Postal Authority director-general Moshe Tery has resigned to go into private business and will be replaced by Eitan Robb, managing director of Nisco Industries, the Communications Ministry announced yesterday.

Tery, who joined the authority in 1996, made a substantial contribution to the postal services by increasing efficiency, developing new services, and preparing it for competition. He had asked some time ago to leave, but Communications Minister Limor Livnat asked him to stay on until she had found a replacement. Tery previously worked as manager of a textile company, an economist in Bank Discount, head of the Investment Center, and director of the Central Securities Company. Robb, 38, is a graduate in economics and statistics of the Hebrew University. Before heading Nisco, he was vice president of the Nisco-Ardan Group, which has 30 subsidiaries and is a leader in electrical and electronics products.

Judy Siegel

Frenkel: I have no plans to quit

Treasury Director-General Zilberfarb slams central bank for not intervening in shekel trading

By DAVID ZEV HARRIS
and DAN GERSTENFELD

"I have no intention of stepping down before the scheduled end of my term in office in the year 2001," Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel told *The Jerusalem Post* yesterday.

Referring to his decision last Thursday to raise interest rates by two percent, Frenkel said if the government fails to use the state budget in a responsible way, the central bank needs to use the interest rate weapon to stop the deterioration.

He added that unlike the warnings of

politicians and interested parties, the capital markets remained stable after the rate announcement - indicating the step was well received by the markets.

However, Treasury Director General Ben-Zion Zilberfarb yesterday launched a scathing public attack on the Bank of Israel and Frenkel.

Speaking to reporters, Zilberfarb said the central bank was wrong not to intervene in currency trading over the last two months since it became clear just how significantly the shekel was depreciating against the dollar.

With regard to this failure, Zilberfarb said "I'm really sorry about the Bank of Israel's

attempt to put the blame for this at the doors of other people."

"I think that the party responsible for monetary policy must do some soul-searching with regard to the policy that he is implementing."

Asked if that meant Frenkel should resign, Zilberfarb said absolutely not but added he thinks policies must change, and he criticized Frenkel for using interest rate changes as the sole tool for upholding the shekel's value.

In the past fortnight Frenkel has twice hiked the key lending rate by 2%, leaving many of his critics in the economy calling

for his resignation.

In the central bank, Frenkel's colleagues were dismissing the suggestion that relations between the bank and Treasury were at their low-point since Yaakov Neeman became finance minister almost a year and a half ago.

"Relations between the governor and minister Neeman are as warm as ever, and they continue to work in harmony," said one official, with another rejecting the suggestion there is a rift between the central bank and Neeman's senior civil servants.

The dollar's representative rate was set at NIS 4.16 yesterday, down 0.81%.

Daley visits US-funded water plant at Karni

By DANNA HARMAN

US Commerce Secretary William Daley toured the US Agency for International Development-funded water and power facility at the Karni industrial park in Gaza yesterday.

Sharing glasses of drinking water with Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat and PA Minister of Industry Saidi Krunz, Daley said that the success of the industrial park would be measured by the jobs it brings to Gaza. "Today I saw the beginning of that process to attract jobs to Gaza. I saw a state of the art water treatment plant that any mayor in the world would want in his city," he said.

The water supply systems, tanks, and the 2.2 megawatt stand-by generator were built through a \$6 million contract with US firm Metcalf and Eddy and subcontracts with Palestinian construction firms Saqqa and Khoudary and El Sodi and Co. The activity was funded through the \$500 million pledge by the US for assistance to Palestinians, which was set up after the Oslo Accords.

The formal opening of the park is scheduled to take place next month, and at which time Daley is expected to return.

According to the Ministry of Industry and Trade, dozens of Palestinian, Israeli, US, and international companies have expressed interest in setting up businesses in the park, and it is expected that some 20,000 jobs will eventually be created.



Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat and US Commerce Secretary William Daley tour a water treatment center, funded by USAID, at the Karni industrial park in Gaza yesterday.

Daley leaves today after a two days of meeting with senior Israeli and Palestinian officials. He said the trip was productive and that he

encountered a great amount of optimism on the part of the business community.

"We had some very good infor-

mal meetings with the Palestinian, Jordanian, and Israeli trade ministers on a series of issues - many of which they had been talking about

for a long time," said Daley. "They laid them all on the table, and we have begun some different processes of addressing every one of them."

Japan, US unveil \$10b. Asia package

By DONNA SMITH

KUALA LUMPUR (Reuters) - US President Bill Clinton and Japanese Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi yesterday announced a \$10 billion initiative to help restore growth in crisis-stricken Asia by helping ailing banks and companies restructure.

"Several of the countries hardest hit by the crisis have made great strides in recent months toward restoring stability," Clinton and Obuchi said in a joint statement.

The package was announced as Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) leaders prepared to meet today and tomorrow in the Malaysian capital, Kuala Lumpur.

"The major challenge they face today is restarting growth as quickly as possible. To support this effort, Japan and the United States, with the support of the World Bank and Asian Development Bank are launching the Asian Growth and Recovery Initiative," the two leaders added.

The plan targets \$5 billion to help leverage substantial new private sector financing to help banks deal and companies restructure so that economies can return to growth.

That money will come from Japan, the Asian Development Bank, and the World Bank. The US cannot legally contribute to that fund, but will provide substantial technical assistance, a senior US official said.

The US will provide \$5 billion to the initiative.

Vice President Al Gore, standing in for Clinton at APEC, said in a speech to an APEC business summit the US would channel the money through Export-Import Bank trade financing programs and Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) insurance programs.

In addition to some \$5 billion in short- and medium-term trade financing made available through the Ex-Im bank at the onset of the financial crisis, the US will provide an additional \$1 billion in trade financing each to Indonesia, Thailand, and South Korea, Gore said.

Shekel's depreciation hurts Tadiran's profits

Electronic manufacturer Tadiran yesterday said that third quarter net income fell 7.9 percent to \$18.6 million from \$20.2m, a year earlier, despite a 5.4% increase in sales to \$293.9m.

The company attributed the decline in profitability to \$2.7m. in charges arising from employee layoffs and a \$8m. rise in financing costs as an outcome of the shekel's depreciation.

The country's largest electronics company said, however, that operating income increased 31.7% to \$31.6m.

Net income for the first nine months rose 13% to \$56.3m. from \$49.8m, while sales went up to \$864.5m. from \$855.4m. in 1997.

The company said that most operating segments demonstrated improved profitability, with export sales rising 6.8% to \$164.8m.

Israel Chemicals
3rd quarter net stable

Israel Chemicals yesterday announced that third quarter net profit remained almost unchanged at NIS 143.8m., despite the fact that sales rose 2.4% to NIS 1.84 billion from NIS 1.78b. a year earlier.

During the first nine months of the year net income rose 6.2% to NIS 364.5m., while sales rose

7.2% to NIS 5.33b. The company said that profits were offset by a sharp increase in financing expenses, which rose to NIS 252.2m. from NIS 127.3m.

The company said the financial crisis in East Asia did not have a major impact on the results. It added, however, that if the crisis continues it may lead to a decline in profitability.

The company also said that if the crisis spreads to Latin America it can also hurt its sales, as Brazil and other countries in the region have become an important market for fertilizers.

Barak losses narrow to \$18.3m.
International phone carrier Barak yesterday reported that third quarter net loss decreased 27% to \$18.3 million from \$25m. a year earlier, while revenues increased 43% to \$19.2m. from \$13.4m.

The company said revenues from data products and Internet rose 36%. It added, however, that the devaluation of the shekel resulted in a \$5m. increase in net losses.

Barak's chief financial officer Alan Gelman said that results were in line with expectations, as outlined by the company's business plan.

Germany, France display unity on EMU issues

By DOUGLAS BUSVINE

BONN (Reuters) - Top German and French finance officials yesterday displayed unity on preparations for European currency union but stopped short of detailing concrete proposals on tax harmonization or jobs.

Both France and Germany expressed their support for the Stability and Growth Pact, which requires strict budgetary discipline among euro-zone countries.

"The Stability Pact is not in doubt. We in Germany have no problem meeting the Stability Pact criteria," German Finance Minister Oskar Lafontaine told a news conference at a meeting of the Franco-German economic council.

French Finance Minister Dominique Strauss-Kahn agreed, saying there is no debate surrounding the pact.

Lafontaine, the chairman of Germany's Social Democrats, has quickly struck up a close working relationship with fellow-socialist Strauss-Kahn, and both have been

keen to present a unified front during the talks.

The message of support for fiscal discipline was welcomed by the governors of the French and German central banks.

Bank of France Governor Jean-Claude Trichet said there is no contradiction between maintaining price stability and economic growth and job creation.

Bundesbank President Hans Tietmeyer also welcomed the two governments' commitment to the stability pact.

Lafontaine said that he and Strauss-Kahn had agreed Germany and France must seek a way to coordinate fiscal, wage, and monetary policies, without going into specifics on exactly what progress had been made during the talks.

"We are entering into a new phase of European politics," he said, calling for a "policy mix that supports growth."

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 - The cost of the tender documents is NIS 3,000 including VAT - in cash or bank check. This sum is not refundable.
- A tour for those who purchase the tender documents only will be held on November 23, 1998, at Ben Gurion airport.
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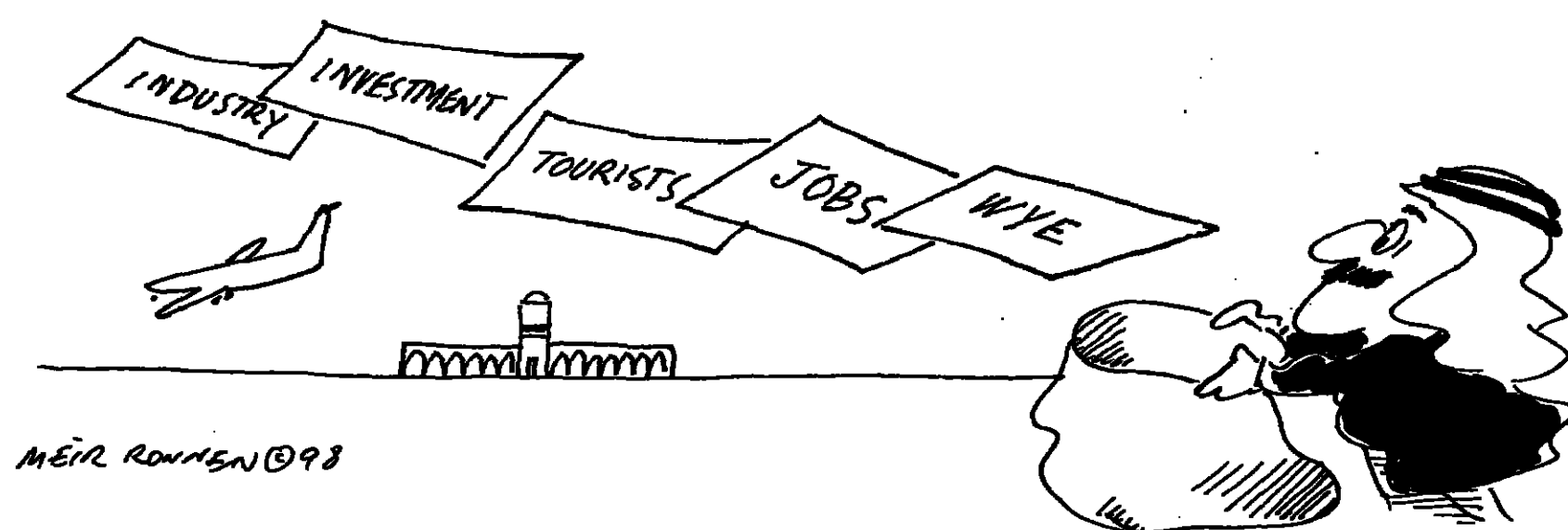
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Building up is hard to do

Between the rock of political graft and the hard place of a shaky peace process, a host of companies are scrambling to develop the PA's economy. Patricia Golan reports



MEIR RONEN © 98

Every weekend hundreds of briefcase-carrying businessmen, bankers and technocrats commute from the West Bank to Amman or the Gulf countries to visit their families. Meet the small army of Palestinian private-sector experts who are laying the foundations for an independent economy.

While Israel generally doesn't issue approvals for Palestinian families to take up residence in the West Bank or Gaza, the experts on tourist visas continue to shuttle back and forth.

In the first two years after the 1993 Oslo Accords, expectations for massive investments in the Palestinian areas were enormous. And following the 1995 Paris Accord on economic relations, people believed the legal environment would improve, risks would diminish and donor countries would extend handsome handouts.

The very reverse occurred. For a number of reasons, the Palestinian economy has degenerated rather than improved. In an atmosphere of uncertainty, periodic closures of the West Bank and the lack of free movement, most investors who had launched projects couldn't function.

What this means is that today only the richest and most committed investors are willing to sink their money in the Palestinian areas.

To date the Palestinian Authority has received about 50 percent of some \$2.4 billion in aid originally pledged by some 40 aid countries. Most of the money has gone to "technical assistance," which includes experts, studies and some infrastructure projects.

Mohammed Shatah, director of the Palestinian Economic Council for Development and Reconstruction (PECDAR), which channels donor money, says most of the funds have not matched the Palestinians' priorities. There are 184 villages in the West Bank and Gaza without drinking water and 88 without electricity, he says. "We did not receive any money for roads in the West Bank and Gaza except from the Arab Fund from Saudi Arabia."

Scant sums, according to Shatah, have gone into agriculture, with the lion's share going into job creation in infrastructure, education or health, "but they're not creating business."

Outside observers contend that the Palestinian economy cannot seriously take off unless the private sector is allowed to develop freely and the PA trades independently with the outside world, "so they can develop their own markets," as one European Commission official put it. "This, frankly, depends as much on Israel as on the PA or the donors," he added.

But although some 6,000 companies have registered with the Palestinian Authority for business licenses, few of them are actually operating. "We built all our projections on the assumption that under peace, the private sector would be encouraged to invest," states Shatah.

Money is not the problem, he explains. "There are \$2.3b worth of private deposits in the banks in the West Bank and Gaza, but the environment for investment is not there. Who is going to come and invest under closure conditions? If you have a company with a branch in the West Bank and a branch in Gaza, you cannot travel between your two branches. I mean, this is a situation in which it is impossible to function. Our economy is really paralyzed."

Furthermore, complains Shatah, Israel still has total control of the borders with Egypt and Jordan, and imposes strict controls on what the Palestinians may import or export.

ECONOMIST Ezra Sadan, a former director-general of the Israeli Treasury who has been involved in negotiations, says blaming Israel for the lack of investments misses the point. According to him, the Palestinians' real predicament is that theirs is a Third World economy.

"Suppose there is free movement to Gaza, who's going to invest in Gaza? The risk is immense. Forget about movement: graft, the fact that

there are no rules, a territory where you can execute a person within 24 hours. Would you go and invest in a place like that?"

In any event, only companies sufficiently powerful to build their own infrastructure, if needed, appear to have both the courage and ability to invest in the West Bank and Gaza.

The organization that has provided the most money for projects in the Palestinian-controlled areas, in addition to the donor countries, is the Palestine Development and Investment Company (PADICO). The largest Palestinian private-sector firm, it was set up after the peace accords in 1993 by wealthy Palestinians living in Jordan and the Gulf. Some, like the al-Masri family from Nablus, used to run the Welfare Association out of Geneva, which supported the activities of the PLO back when it was based in Tunis.

Last year, Saudi billionaire Prince al-Waleed bin Talal invested \$10 million in the PADICO consortium, which today reportedly has a total \$1.5b in working capital.

Unlike most investment companies, PADICO says it has a mission beyond the bottom line: to unify the Palestinians and "rebuild" their land.

Company officials say its goal is to mobilize expatriates, who are estimated by Palestinian analysts at 4.5 million, with combined assets of between \$40b. and \$80b. "But

we're not just a group of rich Palestinians coming back to take advantage of the opportunity," insists PADICO's public-relations director Amin Haddad. "Those who have remained here must also be a part of the dream of PADICO."

According to Haddad, PADICO has already invested a total of \$0.5b. in the Palestinian economy, whose entire GDP is a mere \$3.5b.

PADICO, whose operations include tourism, real estate, poultry farming, plastics, pharmaceuticals, electronics and communications companies, is underwriting several large real-estate schemes including new housing projects in Gaza with private beaches and a marina, and American-style housing estates in Ramallah.

It also set up the Palestine Securities Exchange in Nablus. With a sophisticated electronic software system that allows for remote trading from brokerage offices in other cities, the exchange lists 23 local companies. The largest and most actively traded company is PALTEL, the Palestine Telecommunications Company, whose major stockholder is PADICO. In a joint venture with Ericsson, PALTEL is also about to corner the market on cellular phones in the Palestinian areas.

Evidently, PADICO's success reflects the kind of clout without which it would be unable to sustain the political uncertainty and

administrative red tape that have generally discouraged overseas Palestinian investors, including the North American group Builders for Peace, which threw in the towel two years ago.

"We realized we had to develop our own infrastructure, otherwise we couldn't function," says Amin Haddad, interviewed in PADICO's Nablus offices.

"We evaluated what needed to be done, negotiated with the PA and managed to develop concession agreements. Our fiber-optic network is nearly completed, and we are even building the first power generation plant in Palestine in Gaza, which will expand to the West Bank."

PADICO's powerful influence has drawn many critics, who say the company is far too chummy with the Palestinian Authority.

Gershon Baskin, co-director of IPCRI, the Israel/Palestine Center for Research and Information, points out that PADICO managed to get a 25-year concession to set up and run PALTEL. "This is without competition, and unheard-of in this world today."

PADICO, explains Baskin, could get that kind of concession because it could financially shoulder the task of building from scratch the necessary infrastructure, but also because "they had the political inroads to the PA."

Haddad retorts that the generous concession is only fitting considering

ing PADICO's projects — including a power plant in Gaza and telephone lines in the West Bank — which the PA itself could not accomplish.

Meanwhile, *Newsweek* recently reported that the PA is fighting an order by the Federal District Court in Washington to pay \$18.7m. in damages for canceling a 1993 contract with International Technologies Integration, a Virginia-based communications firm, to set up the first Palestinian phone company, which Yasser Arafat canceled in order to award it to PADICO.

Arafat's chief economic adviser, Mohammed Rashid, is pleading incompetence in the case. Haddad insists PADICO is plowing its earnings back into the Palestinian economy, but adds: "We're not doing business as a charity; PADICO is a private venture. But [according to our charter] every penny we have can only be invested here — a place where our investors will make money, but also a place where we can contribute to the future of our people."

ANOTHER private firm, which claims to be pursuing a redemptive mission besides making money, is the Arab Palestinian Investment Company (APIC). Founded in 1995 by Palestinian billionaire Sheikh Omar Abdul-Fattah Aggad, known as the "father of the Saudi building industry," APIC's backers include

both Palestinian expats and Arab investors. "We felt it was our duty to search for investment opportunities, and by doing so join in the struggle to create a dynamic state," Aggad says in a company brochure bearing the firm's motto: "Rather than look back with anger, work with hope for the future."

APIC's new executive offices in Ramallah are as elegant as those in any Arab capital; its descriptive brochure resembles an art museum catalog with reproductions of oil paintings by local Palestinian artists.

With a working capital of \$100m., APIC has launched several impressive projects in the West Bank and Gaza, including food production and cold storage plants, a medical supplies company and car importer. It has created nearly 700 jobs locally.

APIC's strategy is to enter partnerships with existing companies, supply them with capital, and bring in experienced technicians, managers and marketing experts to turn the company around. For example, APIC bankrolled a failed aluminum extrusion company in Nablus, the National Aluminum and Profile Co. Today the plant supplies the entire local market, is turning a profit and has export potential.

"We know that investing in Palestine is very risky," admits APIC President Zahir Baradei. "There are risks we have no control over, like the political situation. But those risks connected with the business itself we can control."

Palestinian negotiators have been pushing for agreements that would permit foreign trade as an alternative to dependency on Israel. But until there is a way to freely export, says Baradei, APIC is concentrating on getting the best technical and managerial help available, and tailoring its companies to fit the local market. "But should political conditions improve and our ties with the rest of the world open up, we are poised nicely to export: in aluminum and in meat processing, for example," he says.

In the meantime, says Baradei, APIC still manages to get good returns on its investments, despite the restrictions.

Almost all of APIC's senior management personnel and technical experts have been recruited abroad in an aggressive headhunting operation. "We have alliances with companies scattered throughout the Arab world," says Baradei. "The Gulf in particular has seen the growth of big, successful companies in the last few years. Many of the people who have been running these companies are Palestinians, and many want to come and serve in Palestine."

See BUILDING, Page 17

An archive for the 21st century

Versaware is hoping customers will utilize its patent-pending technology to cheaply buy and speedily download their own, personalized electronic libraries. Nicky Blackburn reports

There's something a little breathless about Versaware Technologies Inc., a leading developer of Internet-based digital publishing technologies. Everyone's in a hurry, from the workers milling around the large, open-plan office in Jerusalem, to the founder and CEO, Harry Fox, who's racing from meeting to meeting, stopping only to loudly debate a point with someone in the hall.

There's a reason for the rush though, something Fox understands all too well. If Versaware doesn't break into the market now, someone else will. It's all about timing. And risk, of course.

Versaware, which has its headquarters in New York and an R&D center in bustling Tel Aviv, burst onto the electronic publishing scene in January 1997. A merger between two start-ups — Versabook and CNS — it opened with a staff of 35, a figure that has risen to more than 70. There are an additional 12 employees around the world.

The company's three year R&D cycle was completed in half the time, and Fox anticipates that Versaware will break even next year. "We should be profitable by 1999," he says. "In our first full year of marketing and sales, we are looking at sales in the lower seven figures."

So what's all the commotion about? Versaware has created a number of cheap proprietary technologies that allow it to rapidly and inexpensively convert any text or graphical content into multimedia formats called Versabooks, cutting down on existing multimedia prices by about 90 percent.

Using this patent-pending technology, customers can buy and speedily download digital books or sections of books to create their own personalized electronic libraries. The books, which range in price from about \$7-\$8 from the Internet to \$9.95 in CD-ROM format, can be updated constantly and searched.

What makes the technology particularly attractive is the library builder, a powerful software tool that allows users to purchase, store, search, update, display and read their library of Versabooks.

Don't, however, expect Dickens or a slim volume of poetry. Versaware's focus is on reference guides and educational books. "It's anything you want to look something up in," says Fox. This includes dictionaries, encyclopedias, books on travel, history or sports.

At present, Versaware has about 30 CD-ROM and Internet products. One of these — an Internet version of the *Funk and Wagnalls Encyclopedia* — was launched at the start of November. The site, which includes *Webster's College Dictionary* and hourly news updates from Reuters, is a veritable trove of information.

The F&W site acts as a showcase for the

Versabook technology, and Fox hopes that it will introduce and familiarize Internet users with Versaware's potential.

Aside from holding exclusive branding rights to the *Funk and Wagnalls Encyclopedia*, Versaware also has strategic alliances with Simon & Schuster, Oxford University Press, Primedia, Sony, Packard Bell, Worldgate and World Book, among others.

As a result of these alliances, Fox promises to offer thousands of different Versabooks next year.

The concept of Versaware is very much the product of Fox's experiences through life. A computer whiz he may be — he created the first ergonomic joystick — but at the heart of his thinking is the end user, the person. "People don't buy a computer and then ask what they're going to do with it," says Fox.

"The reason why it has emerged as a successful home appliance in the last six or seven years is because the industry gave consideration to its clear cut benefits: better education for children, home banking, access to information."

"Back in the late '80s, it was clear to me that the No. 1 benefit for the home consumer is information, knowledge and education. The computer is a tool that because of things like multimedia and connectivity can provide a better method of teaching people about different subjects and a better method of providing information. And so the first objective was to turn computers into multimedia devices."

In a bid to do just that, Fox began his career in hardware design, developing the first multimedia PC for Philips in 1989. The following year he developed the first multimedia upgrade kit for Sony.

"Now that we had fantastic hardware, we had to deliver on the promise," says Fox. He began developing affordable software that would turn computers into the educational

experience he had earlier envisaged.

In 1992, he founded Interactive Publishing Corp., Futurevision and became heavily involved in creating state-of-the-art "information" products.

It was during this period, however, that he realized something was going wrong. "We ran into a paradox," he says. "Consumers were hungry for variety. They wanted a vast assortment of consumer titles in order to justify their investment in new media. You can't have a record store with just 20-50 titles. Consumers expected thousands of titles at affordable prices that would be available everywhere."

"But a funny thing happened. Software development costs actually went up not down. The price of developing multimedia software became prohibitively expensive. With costs high, prices stayed high. Consumers became resistant to buying a variety of titles, which led to minor sales, which led to less shops carrying the products. It was a vicious circle."

"There was no business model that made the development of multimedia software worthwhile. The industry was unable to progress."

From a peak of about 500 software companies in 1995, the number has fallen sharply. "Today there are only three or four software companies that are selling and distributing all the games," says Fox. "The multimedia CD-ROM industry is completely stagnant. Very few titles come out nowadays and most are upgrades of existing titles. In 1994-5, there were about 50,000 new titles a year, now it's down to about 1,000."

Prices remain high, at about \$30 a title. It was during 1993-1994 that Fox realized what was happening. Futurevision was involved in developing the CD-ROM, Leonardo the Inventor. "It was becoming more and more expensive to develop the software."

He took the hint, and in 1995 sold Futurevision to the Learning Company for

\$40 million. He remained there as VP of new technologies for a year, during which time he supervised the development of the first DVD computer software, and developed the first interactive Internet site. In 1996, he emigrated to Israel and, along with Saul Rosenberg and Eva Rosenstein, set up Versabook and CNS.

Their goal: to develop a technology that would slash the cost of developing multimedia software. "That was the challenge, that was the opportunity and that is the accomplishment," says Fox.

Versaware was started with an investment of \$7m., contributed by the company's founders. Since then another \$3m. has been raised in international offerings and another private offering is likely soon.

From the start, Fox thought big, employing a large staff, 75 percent of which are new immigrants. "We had to," explains Fox. "We are in a different world today. We basically have less than 12 months to develop another generation of technology. You can't start with just a few people because of the way technology develops. I saw a window of opportunity that required us to have a different approach."

So far Fox's risk seems to have paid off. Versaware, he says, is alone in the market. "We don't have any competitors per se. There is a US company, but it doesn't have a CD-ROM strategy."

What makes Versaware different is that rather than selling its core technology to other companies as its competitors do, it is using the technology in-house to create its own products. "No one else is using the concept of going direct," says Fox.

By going directly to the end user, it means that prices remain low. "We cut out the middle man who takes the lion's share of the profits," explains Fox.

The vehicle that enables him to do this is the Internet. "Now I can reach an audience directly with very little expense."

It's a risky undertaking as Fox acknowledges, but he's convinced it will pay off.

In the future, the company plans to continue its rapid growth. Staff will increase as the company begins to move into the market for text books and professional publications for the legal and medical professions.

"Our mission is to enable anyone, anytime, anywhere to inexpensively create their own personalized interactive libraries... from the world's most trusted archives," says Fox.

And on a personal level: "Our long term goal is to become the de facto electronic publishing standard that consumers will demand," says Fox. "The electronic publishing market is worth an estimated \$70 billion a year, and we want to become a major player in that market."

Harry Fox: "Our long term goal is to become the de facto electronic publishing standard that consumers will demand."

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The Conference Circuit

By GUY FAY CASHMAN

18.11 Tel Aviv

University is hosting an afternoon conference on the Internet as a Personal Tool of Communication. Keynote speaker will be John Sculley, former CEO of Pepsi Cola and Apple Computers, who will talk about "Information technology and the Internet: The next step."

Sculley and his brothers Arthur and David run an investment-capital firm which focuses on media technologies, Internet services and consumer businesses. The event will take place in the Leon Hall of the Betanati Building on the Tel Aviv campus.

19.11 The First

National Convention of Business Women (Globe) will be held at 4 p.m. at the Larnana Hotel, Jerusalem. Over 350 businesswomen, many of them CEOs, have already indicated their attendance. The convention is being held at the initiative of the Israel Division of the Jewish Agency and with the participation of at least four women MKs as well as other activists for the advancement of the status of women. Topics to be discussed include commonalities and differences between businesswomen in Israel and abroad; support systems for female business entrepreneurs; women in family businesses and running a business from home.

22.11 The Friedrich

Ebert Foundation of Germany is organizing a public lecture at the Dan Hotel, Tel Aviv, with Johannes Rau, the former prime minister of North Rhine-Westphalia. Rau, who was recently nominated by the Social Democratic Party to be Germany's next president, will speak on Germany after the Change of Government: Economics, Renewal and Continuity. Rau will be visiting Israel in his capacity as president of the Friedrich Ebert Foundation. Following the lecture, he will be awarded Givat Haviva's Herta and Paul Amirai prize, as will Yael Granot, the former director of Givat Haviva.

26.11 Governor of the

Bank of Israel Professor Jacob Frankel and Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman will be among the speakers examining how Israel has been affected by the World Economic Crisis at a study day being held at the Holiday Inn, Crown Plaza, Tel Aviv.

30.11 The annual three-

day conference to Promote Tourism to Eilat will draw agents and travel writers from around the world to the southern resort town. The conference is being held under the auspices of the Eilat Hotel Association.

23.11 To celebrate its

40th anniversary, the Israel Export Institute will hold an Export Day Seminar at the Dan Panorama Hotel, in the presence of President Ezer Weizman and Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky.

24.11 The Center for

Electronic Commerce, in conjunction with the Israel Export Institute, is hosting a seminar on Business to Business Electronic Commerce. The event, to be held at the Sheraton Hotel, Tel Aviv, will explore the business strategies of developing technologies and present tips for coping with electronic business.

25.11 Marketing 99, a

two-day exhibition and convention focusing on everything you ever wanted to know about advertising, marketing, public relations, franchising, outsourcing and related subjects will be held at the Dan Panorama Hotel, Tel Aviv. Entry is free of charge.

26.11 The annual

Conference of the Israel Association of Public Law will be held at the Galei Kinnetz Hotel, Tiberias. Among the many interesting topics on the agenda is parliamentary immunity. The final session will be devoted to "Reforms in the courts of justice in the light of the Orr Report."

26.11 Bank of Israel

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28.25	-1.5125
<u>28.25</u>	<u>-1.5</u>

28.25	-1.5125
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28.25	-1.5125
<u>28.25</u>	<u>-1.5</u>

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1.6875	-0.5625
0.875	-0.375

28.25	-1.5125
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BUILDING

Continued from Page 13

PADICO and APIC have chalked up impressive achievements, but for small- or medium-size businesses, the environment is tough.

The European Commission has been encouraging the Palestinian private sector. Over the past few years, its Palestinian Development Fund has assisted hundreds of companies with everything and anything from financial support, to assistance in devising marketing strategies. The fund grants modest loans to a variety of enterprises turned down by the local banks.

And there are a handful of local boy-makes-good stories in the Palestinian private sector. One of the most notable in this category is the Nassar Industries in Bethlehem, which produces high quality polished limestone, used for floors and building facades.

Locally owned and run with annual sales of \$25m., Nassar exports its

products to 18 countries including the US and Italy. Last year, Nassar completely furnished San Diego Airport with its Jerusalem stone.

Company business consultant Samir Huleihel says that for a long time the company had serious difficulties getting shipments to Israeli ports, until US Undersecretary of State Stuart Eizenstadt persuaded Israel to expedite inspections.

"Mr. Eizenstadt intervened repeatedly and made it possible for us to convince the Israelis. What can we hide in a stone?"

The Wye agreement contains several significant economic clauses that may enable the Palestinians to be less dependent on Israel, most notably the airport in Gaza, which will serve tourists, visitors and importers and exporters, without Israeli intervention; the "safe passage" that will enable the free flow of work; the Gaza seaport, which will create thousands of jobs; and the industrial commercial zone at Karni crossing, which is slated to open in December.

United and Antwerp in deal to nurture talent

ANTWERP (Reuters) - Manchester United and Belgian second division club Antwerp signed a co-operation deal yesterday to swap loan players on a regular basis.

But the English club denied the agreement amounted to a takeover of one of Belgium's oldest clubs.

Nor did it mean United was setting up a "nursery" club to take advantage of Belgium's liberal work permit laws to bring non-EU players to England "via the back door." "We have not bought the club and this is not a takeover move. We have simply come to an agreement with them whereby we can send players to gain experience and vice versa," a United official said.

Australia name Gillespie for first Ashes Test

Tailenders save the day as England beat Queensland

SYDNEY (Reuters) - Fast bowler Jason Gillespie and dashing batsman Ricky Ponting were named yesterday to the 12-man Australian squad to play England in the first Test starting in Brisbane on Friday.

Australia's daunting pace attack will consist of Gillespie, who returns from injury, Michael Kasparowicz, and Glenn McGrath, with swing bowler Damien Fleming also in the line-up.

With Shane Warne likely to miss the first two Tests, the Australian selectors have chosen legspinner Stuart MacGill to lead the slow ball attack which has so often baffled the Englishmen in recent series.

The selection of Ponting ahead of Darren Lehmann follows a determined tussle during the successful Pakistan tour for the final batting position and confirmed captain Mark Taylor's weekend observation that some deserving candidates would miss selection.

Australia has won the last five Ashes series.

The Australian cricket board said the squad would gather in Brisbane today and train at the Gabba ground tomorrow and Thursday.

The 12-man squad is: Mark Taylor (capt), Steve Waugh (v-c), Michael Slater, Justin Langer, Mark Waugh, Ricky Ponting, Ian Healy, Jason Gillespie, Damien Fleming, Stuart MacGill, Glenn McGrath, Michael Kasparowicz.

In Cairns, tailenders' fightback from Robert Croft and Alan Mullally gave England a one-wicket win over Queensland yesterday on the final day of their four-day tour match.

The pair put on an unbeaten partnership of 36 to save the day after England plummeted to 106 for nine in their second innings, devastated by fast bowler Michael Kasparowicz. Mullally (23 not out) and Croft (15 not out) helped England to a total of 142 for nine at Cazaly's Oval.

England scored 192 in their first innings, with Queensland scoring 209 and 124.

Queensland pace bowler Kasparowicz finished with figures of six for 31.

England's concern over the fitness of Michael Atherton, who suffered the recurrence of a back injury on Sunday, also abated slightly.

After not taking the field on

Sunday, Atherton made it to the crease yesterday but scored only one run.

England on Sunday summoned batsman Graeme Hick from London as a precaution against any further injuries to the 17-man Ashes squad.

After the match, England batsman John Crawley suffered cuts and bruises to his face in a late-night attack in Cairns but expects to be available for the Test.

Crawley was verbally abused and then punched to the ground by an unknown assailant as he returned alone to the team hotel in Cairns after socialising with other players, the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) said in a press release.

Crawley did not attend the final morning of the four-day match. He rested at the team hotel.

Team manager Graham Gooch said Crawley was naturally upset by the incident but other than the cuts and bruises to his face he was "fine and fully fit".

Gooch said the team management considered reporting the attack to the police but Crawley was keen to put the incident behind him and concentrate on the Brisbane Test.

Hoddle calls on 'oldies' Dublin, Merson, Wright

BISHAM ABBEY (Reuters) - Glenn Hoddle sang the praises of his "three wise men" yesterday while keeping his options open about who would captain the team against the Czech Republic in tomorrow's friendly at Wembley Stadium.

The England manager confirmed at a news conference that regular captain Alan Shearer would miss the match after injuring his hamstring on Saturday.

Leicester City's Emile Heskey, Manchester United's Paul Scholes, Aston Villa's Paul Merson, Liverpool's Jamie Redknapp and West Ham's Ian Wright all missed training yesterday.

"The five who did not train today are the doubts for Wednesday," said Hoddle, although he added that Merson and Wright needed just 24 hours for their injuries to settle and should train today.

With Shearer, Teddy Sheringham and Michael Owen all

injured, Hoddle is expected to put Aston Villa's newly-signed striker Dion Dublin into the starting line-up alongside the 35-year-old Wright in what would be a veteran front line.

"It's not a problem for me if they are performing well - and they are," he said.

"Ian Wright for instance was terrific on Saturday, Dion Dublin I saw put in a marvellous performance down at Southampton."

"I think it is a good lesson for some of the youngsters coming through," he added.

Both the over-30 attackers, Merson and Wright, and Dublin, who will be 30 next April, have changed clubs this season and Hoddle said that was also a key factor in their form.

"It probably comes at the best time when you are around about 30-ish and it does give you an added spring to your step," he said of the importance of having a new set of fans to impress.

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Internet gag spotlights 'needy' players

By JIM LITKE



Next up is a bake sale. "Hundreds of basketball players in our very own country are living at or just below the seven-figure salary line. And as if that isn't bad enough, they will be deprived of pay for several weeks - possibly a whole year. But now you can help!" the solicitation screamed.

"For two thousand dollars a day - less than the cost of a large screen projection TV - you can help keep a basketball player economically viable during his time of need."

Day 138 of "The NBA Held Hostage" passed Sunday and this Adopt-A-Player message, in varying forms, has been turning up in an increasing number of Internet mailboxes.

According to the solicitation, \$2,000 gets you a picture of your sponsored player, a team logo and a badge to wear proudly on your lapel. But the real satisfaction, it should be noted, comes with knowing you've made it possible for an NBA player to "continue to make rap songs, travel extensively, have more parts of his body pierced or tattooed, mingle with his Wrestlemania friends and buy silk sheets almost every day."

One version in my mailbox was signed, "The NBA Players Association," but if you haven't figured it out by now, all of the versions are gags. Almost as funny - though not intentionally so - is the detailed breakdown of his finances that Boston Celtics guard Kenny Anderson and his accountant provided recently to the *New York Times*.

"Let's like they say," Anderson explained without the least bit of guile. "The more you make, the more you spend." In Anderson's case, he was scheduled to make \$5.8 million this season before the lockout began in July. After taxes, he was left with a measly \$3m or so, and an even measlier \$2.6m after paying \$230,000 to agent David Falk and another \$175,000 to his lawyers and accountants.

Out of what's left, Anderson normally budgets \$36,000 to pay his mother's mortgage; \$86,000 to support two illegitimate children; \$150,000 for rent on a

home in Beverly Hills (five bedrooms, pool, basketball and tennis courts); \$75,000 to insure and maintain eight cars; and \$120,000 in what he describes as "hanging out" money.

There is more, but this sampling of expenses gives you an idea of what he is up against now that the money isn't rolling in.

"I have to start getting tight," he said. "You know, just get rid of the Mercedes."

Of course, at the exact moment the owners start to look like reasonable men, one of them has to ruin the illusion by opening his mouth. This weekend that distinction was claimed by Donald Sterling of the Los Angeles Clippers, who came down on commissioner David Stern, the owners' negotiator, for "going soft" on the players.

"We call him 'Easy Dave,'" Sterling said. "I don't think Stern would ever take advantage of anybody."

The lockout began with the owners' decision to reopen the collective bargaining agreement, a move they took when the players' share of revenues reached 57 percent. The owners want a 50-50 split; the union has proposed 60-40. By violating a league-wide gag order imposed during negotiations, Sterling "almost certainly earned himself a fine."

But he is apparently even more concerned that the commissioner might be considering a compromise. "I have my own ideas and they're not consistent with Stern's," Sterling added. "I think some owners feel that since we create and make the game and put up the seed money and take all the risk, that perhaps we should get a more equitable distribution of the revenue."

Like Anderson with his bank books, Sterling didn't have enough sense to keep his opinions to himself. He took over the Clippers in 1981, and his teams have posted exactly one winning season since.

Most of us want the NBA back, but the longer that players like Anderson and owners like Sterling occupy center stage, the easier it becomes to root against an end to the lockout. Because when it does end, Anderson will go back to his fleet of cars and Sterling to the dart board in his office that makes all those critical decisions for him and both will think they helped get it right.

The thought of either one sitting smugly is enough to make you want to turn that old question around on its head: If you're so rich, how come you aren't smart? (AP)



Steffi Graf celebrates after winning the Advanta Championships on Sunday. (Reuters)

Making giant strides

Graf's comeback enhanced by win over Davenport

VILLANOVA, Penna. (AP) - Steffi Graf took a dramatic step in her tennis comeback on Sunday by stunning top-ranked Lindsay Davenport to win the Advanta Championships.

The unseeded Graf defeated Davenport 4-6, 6-3, 6-4 in a grueling two-hour match, to win her second tournament in as many tries since returning from a two-month layoff because of wrist surgery.

The loss spoiled Davenport's debut on American soil as the top-ranked player in the WTA Tour's computer rankings. She had won her last seven matches, including a victory over Monica Seles in the semifinals Saturday and the European Championships

finals against Venus Williams last month.

But it was Graf who celebrated this time in the first meeting between the two in a championship final. Minutes after Davenport's return hit the net on match point, Graf smiled widely and shook her fist in the air.

But it was Graf who celebrated this time in the first meeting between the two in a championship final. Minutes after Davenport's return hit the net on match point, Graf smiled widely and shook her fist in the air.

It was Graf's 10th straight match victory, including a win in the finals of the Leipzig Open, since returning from wrist surgery last month. It was the second time Graf has won the tournament.

Avalanche unbeaten streak reaches 15



VANCOUVER (AP) - A d a m Deadmarsh scored twice as the Colorado Avalanche

extended their unbeaten streak to 15 games with a come-from-behind 2-1 victory over the Vancouver Canucks on Sunday.

With Colorado trailing 1-0, Deadmarsh tied the game 4:20 into the third period when he snapped in Joe Sakic's rebound.

Deadmarsh was then credited with the game winner 7:37 into the period when he deflected in

Peter Forsberg's point shot for a power-play goal. Colorado, which won for the first time in seven games when trailing after two periods this season, is now 12-0-3 in its last 15 meetings against Vancouver, going back to December 1995.

Avalanche goaltender Patrick Roy, who stopped 19 shots, improved his personal unbeaten streak against the Canucks to 9-0-2.

Blackhawks 2, Senators 2 In Sunday's only other game, Eric Daze's power-play goal at 5:47 of the third period lifted host Chicago to a tie, but the Blackhawks' winless streak still reached 10 games (0-8-2).

Daze converted a deflection from the slot 49 seconds after Ottawa's Shaun Van Allen had given the Senators a 2-1 lead with a short-handed breakthrough goal.

Ottawa 0-11-2 Chicago 0-11-2 First Period - None, Second Period - 1, Ottawa, Patrick 1 (Nash, Anisimov), 3:07, 2, Chicago, Anisimov 12 (Daze, Coffey), 6:12 (pp), Third Period - 3, Ottawa, Van Allen 2, 4:58 (sh), 4, Chicago, Daze 2 (Giroux, Anisimov), 5:47 (pp), Overtime - None, Shots on goal - Ottawa 12-6-10, Chicago 6-11-10-25, Goalies - Ottawa, Rhoades, Chicago, Fitzpatrick, A-15,608.

Colorado 0-12-2 Vancouver 10-1-1 First Period - 1, Vancouver, McCabe 2 (Schwandner), 4:20, Second Period - None, Third Period - 2, Colorado, Deadmarsh 8 (Sakic, Hejduk), 4:20, 3, Colorado, Deadmarsh 7 (Forsberg, Sakic), 7:37 (pp), Shots on goal - Colorado 6-12-21, Vancouver 4-10-8-20, Goalies - Colorado, Roy, Vancouver, Snow, A-15,311.

Unbeaten runs continue at Vigo, Velodrome

LONDON (Reuters) - Unbeaten clubs topped the Spanish and French leagues at the weekend while some struggling champions fared less well in Europe.

In Spain, Celta Vigo upset the European Cup holders Real Madrid 2-1 with their first win in a row with the intimidating Santiago Bernabeu stadium in 50 years.

French leaders Marseille beat champions RC Lens 1-0 at the Stade Velodrome to take their unbeaten run to 14 matches.

Italian champions Juventus lost 2-0 to AS Roma and Dutch champions Ajax drew 2-2 at home to PSV Eindhoven.

A round-up of the European highlights this weekend.

ITALY Leaders Fiorentina, who had their appeal against being kicked out of the UEFA Cup rejected on Sunday, went down 4-2 at Piacenza but stayed one point clear at the top after Juventus lost 2-0 to Roma.

Roma went second on goal difference from Juve in something of a grudge match, their goals coming from Brazilian Paolo Sergio and France's Vincent Candela.

At the bottom, newly-promoted Venezia won a Serie A match for the first time in 30 years, beating Lazio 2-0.

GERMANY Bayern Munich, with Brazilian striker Elber in fine form, beat VfB Stuttgart 2-0 on Saturday

to go five points clear of Bayer Leverkusen at the top.

Champions Kaiserslautern beat struggling Werder Bremen 1-0 for their fourth consecutive victory.

Bottom side Borussia Moenchengladbach ended a run of six defeats in a row with a 1-1 draw at Hansa Rostock.

FRANCE Marseille forged four points clear of Girondins Bordeaux after a goal from Christophe Dugary saw off RC Lens.

Girondins and third-placed Rennes, nine points behind Marseille, both drew their respective matches.

NETHERLANDS PSV Eindhoven goalkeeper Ronald Waterreus was sent off and his stand-in Patrick Lodewijks carried off in a dramatic 2-2 draw at Ajax Amsterdam on Sunday.

Feyenoord Rotterdam regained the leadership by beating Fortuna Sittard 4-1.

SPAIN Celta Vigo went top after ending a 50-year wait to beat Real Madrid at the Bernabeu Stadium for the first time since 1948 on Saturday night. The 2-1 win left the Galician club still unbeaten this season and with 20 points.

Malorca could have gone top on Sunday but they blew it with a 1-0 defeat at Valladolid. The defeat enabled Barcelona to leapfrog up into second place with a 4-1 win against Tenerife.

United deny interest in Bosnich

LONDON (Reuters) - Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson denied yesterday he is in the race to sign Aston Villa goalkeeper Mark Bosnich.

The Australian international is out of contract at Villa Park at the end of the season, sparking speculation Ferguson might want him to replace Peter Schmeichel who is quitting Old Trafford after this season.

Villa manager John Gregory said at the weekend: "If United are getting a bit concerned about Schmeichel they can have Bozzie for £1 million."

"They have big matches coming up, and if Alex fancies the deal now he can give me a ring," But Ferguson said. "We've shown absolutely no interest in Bosnich whatsoever."

Shark wins his own shootout

THOUSAND OAKS, Calif. (Reuters) - Australia's Greg Norman made a successful return to competitive golf, teaming with countryman Steve Elkington Sunday to win the tournament he hosts, the \$1.3 million Shark Shootout.

Norman had been away from golf since surgery April 22nd to remove bone spurs from his left shoulder. He spent four months rehabilitating the arm and returned with a splash, winning this unofficial PGA Tour event for the first time.

Norman rolled in the winning putt to defeat the tandem of Peter Jacobsen and John Cook on the third hole of a sudden-death playoff. But it was Elkington who stuck his approach at the par-4 18th within two feet.

NFL

Continued from Page 20

All talk of the playoffs is off in Tampa Bay (4-6), which lost its seventh straight road game and would need to finish the season undefeated to match last year's 10-6 record.

Raiders 20, Seahawks 17 Greg Davis's second field goal of the fourth quarter, a 37-yarder with 21 seconds left, gave Oakland a narrow home victory.

After Warren Moon drove the Seahawks (5-5) 65 yards in eight plays for the tying touchdown, a 12-yard toss to Christian Fauria, Donald Hoss moved the Raiders 54 yards in just 36 seconds to set up Davis' tiebreaking kick.

The game featured punt run-backs for touchdowns by Joey Galloway and Desmond Howard.

Chargers 14, Ravens 13 Host San Diego won despite the loss of running back Natrone Means with a broken left foot.

Craig Whelihan, elevated to starting quarterback when troubled rookie Ryan Leaf was benched on Monday, erased the zero from his won-loss record, improving to 1-7. He threw a 47-

yard touchdown pass to Charlie Jones in the second quarter, and Terrell Fletcher returned from a four-game absence due to a knee injury to score the game-winner on a 3-yard run with 14:47 to play.

Lions 26, Bears 3 Rookie Charlie Batch passed for 253 yards and Tommy Vardell scored three touchdowns in Detroit's home victory.

The Bears held Barry Sanders to 28 yards on 14 carries in their first meeting. But this time Sanders, wearing a flak jacket to protect some ribs, rushed 24 times for 114 yards, the 75th 100-yard game of his career. In games reported in yesterday's

edition:

Falcons 31, 49ers 19 Atlanta took over first place in the NFC West Division, using its defense to score twice before clinching a home victory on Chris Chandler's 78-yard touchdown pass to Terance Mathis.

Colts 24, Jets 23 Peyton Manning passed for three touchdowns, including 14 yards to tight end Marcus Pollard with 24 seconds to go, lifting Indianapolis to a home win.

Aaron Glenn of the Jets ran a record 104 yards for a touchdown with a 63-yard missed field goal as the first half ended.

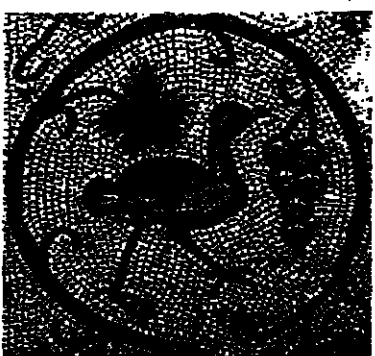
Vikings 24, Bengals 3 Host Minnesota used Dwayne

Rudd's 63-yard fumble return to break open a sloppy game.

Playing just six days after surgery to remove two bone chips from his right knee, Vikings quarterback Randall Cunningham was 13-for-20 for 224 yards with a touchdown, two interceptions and a 3-yard sneak that gave Minnesota a 7-0 lead midway through the first quarter. It was his first rushing TD by a Minnesota quarterback in two years.

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Chicago 0-3-0-3
First Quarter: Min-Cunningham 1 run (Anderson kick), 5:31, Second Quarter: Min-Falk 63 yard fumble return (Anderson kick), 3:28, Fourth Quarter: Min-Anderson 32, 12:03, Min-Kick 61 pass from Cunningham (Anderson kick), 11:26, A-67,222.

Pittsburgh 0-14-0-14
First Quarter: Min-Falk 63 yard fumble return (Anderson kick), 3:28, Fourth Quarter: Min-Anderson 32, 12:03, Min-Kick 61 pass from Cunningham (Anderson kick), 11:26, A-67,222.

San Francisco 0-3-0-3
First Quarter: Min-Falk 63 yard fumble return (Anderson kick), 3:28, Fourth Quarter: Min-Anderson 32, 12:03, Min-Kick 61 pass from Cunningham (Anderson kick), 11:26, A-67,222.

San Francisco 0-3-0-3
First Quarter: Min-Falk 63 yard fumble return (Anderson kick), 3:28, Fourth Quarter: Min-Anderson 32, 12:03, Min-Kick 61 pass from Cunningham (Anderson kick), 11:26, A-67,222.

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Cincinnati 2 8 0 200 167 267
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Seattle 5 5 0 500 213 162
Kansas City 4 5 0 400 167 167
San Diego 4 6 0 400 172 179

LAST NIGHT: DENVER AT KANSAS CITY
CFL PLAYOFFS
Division Finals
East Division: Hamilton 22, Montreal 21
West Division: Calgary 35, Edmonton 10
Grey Cup
At Winnipeg: Montreal 34, Calgary 24
At Hamilton: Hamilton 24, Calgary 10

سكرا من الاصل

J K A K

Inside

Adopt
a needy
NBA star

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Huddle
calls on
veterans

Page 17

Sports Editors
Joe Hoffman & Ori LewisR. Hasharon
take charge
of women's
hoops league

By HEATHER CHART

Ramat Hasharon's women's basketball team is now assuming control of the National League after last week's close standings had left four teams on 12 points.

Ramat Hasharon beat defending champions Elitzur Ramle 70-62 at home last night for their third successive win. Last week they also continued their European success, beating Italian side Chieti 77-64 in the Ronchetti Cup.

Elitzur Holon, who beat Gopich 72-64 in Croatia, is second in the National League, also with 14 points, after narrowly beating Maccabi Ra'anana 66-64 on the road.

Top scorer for Holon was American Tami Jenkins with 16 points and 12 rebounds.

ASA Jerusalem, after slumping to two successive defeats, came back to beat Bnei Yehuda 80-72 at home. Tamar Maoz contributed 21 points towards her team's victory.

Hapoel Galil Elyon's 85-81 win over Neufeld Carmiel was their fifth straight win.

Yesterday's other game was between two winless teams, Maccabi Ramat Gan and Hapoel Petah Tikva. Victory went to Ramat Gan with a 95-77 result.

Petah Tikva is now firmly rooted to tenth and last place in the league.

Favre leads Packers' rout of Giants

Cowboys' Smith No. 3 on career TD list; Lions' Sanders has 75th 100-yard outing



EAST RUTHERFORD (AP) — Brett Favre became the second fastest quarterback to throw 200 career touchdowns and reach the 25,000-yard plateau, while Reggie White had two sacks in the Green Bay Packers' 27-3 rout of the New York Giants on Sunday.

The impressive performance came just six days after the Packers (7-3) were beaten by

Standings, box scores,
Page 18

Pittsburgh for their third loss in five games.

The Giants (3-7) managed just 127 yards and Favre was 21-of-33 for 267 yards. He threw two touchdown passes to backup tight end Tyrone Davis as the Packers gained 433 yards and scored on seven of nine offensive series in one stretch.

Dolphins 13, Panthers 9

Karim Abdul-Jabbar rushed for 127 yards, the best outing by a Miami player since 1996, and the Dolphins ended a three-game road losing skid.

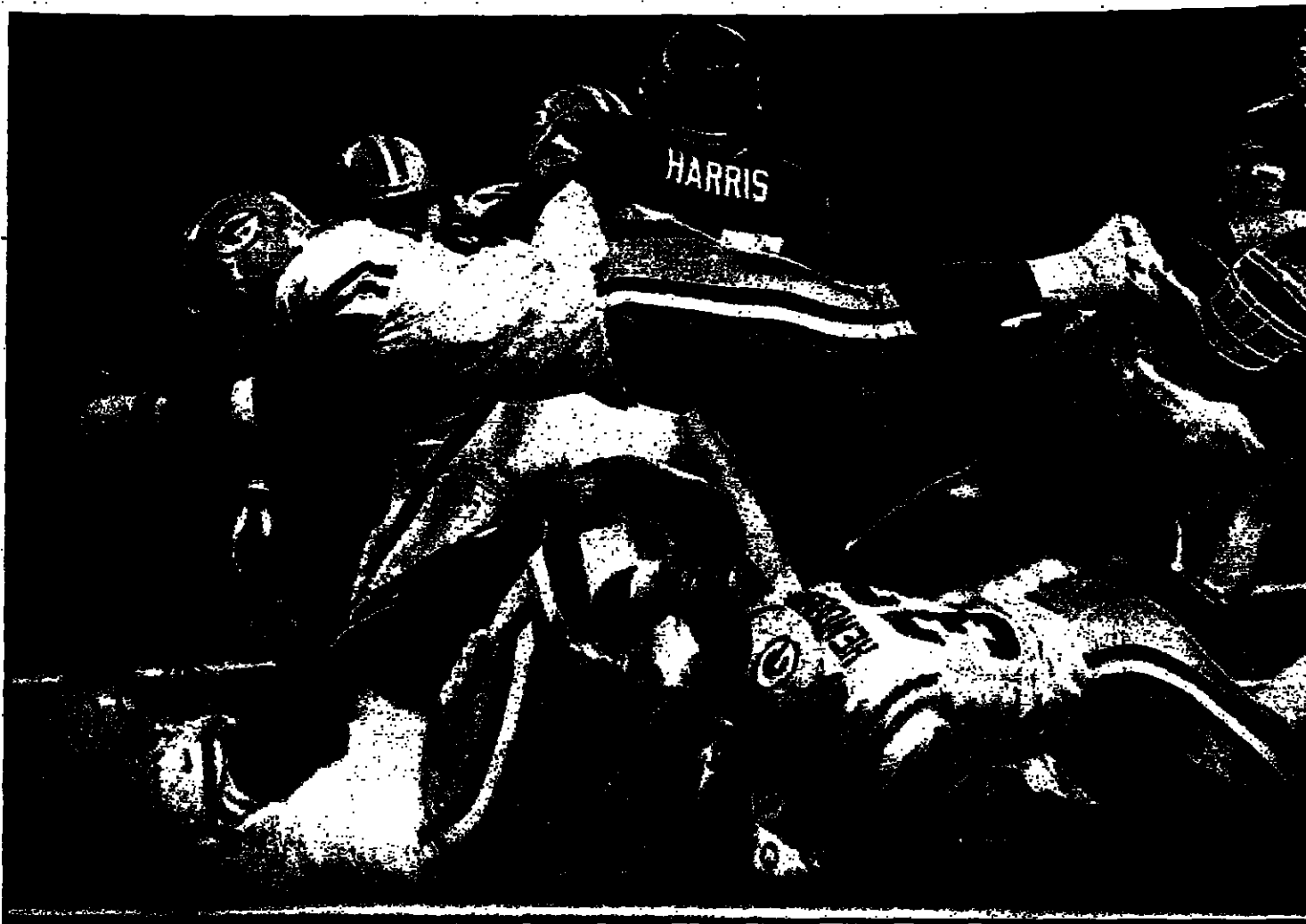
The Dolphins (7-3), who took over first place alone in the AFC East when the New York Jets lost, finished with season-highs of 184 yards rushing and 40 carries.

Miami blew fourth-quarter leads in each of its previous two road games, but had no such problems against the Panthers (1-9).

Redskins 28, Eagles 3

Skip Hicks scored three touchdowns on short runs, and the NFL's most generous defense held the league's most inept offense to 215 total yards as Washington won at home.

The 25-point margin of victory was the second largest in NFL history's five seasons as Washington coach, Philadelphia has lost four games by 25 or more points this season.



SAFE LANDING — Packers Darick Holmes (c) dives into the end zone to score against the Giants in fourth-quarter action. (Reuters)

Oilers 23, Steelers 14

Al Del Greco, who failed to get on the field for a field-goal attempt in Tennessee's last home game, kicked a 22-yarder with three seconds left that lifted the Oilers to a home win.

The Oilers tacked on a final TD with time expired as the Steelers (6-4) tried to keep the ball alive off the kickoff. They lateraled it around the field and Will Blackwell lost the ball in the end zone, where Michael Roan fell on it.

Bills 13, Patriots 10

Doug Flutie threw a touchdown pass and jump-started host Buffalo's running game. Flutie threw 10 yards to tight end Jay Riemersma with 1:57 left in the third quarter for the Bills' only touchdown, capping a drive of 47 yards. The score ended the Bills' drought of nearly seven quarters without a touchdown, during which Steve Christie kicked nine field goals.

Saints 24, Rams 3

Kerry Collins, making his first start for New Orleans, drove the host Saints 62 yards for a touchdown on their first possession, capping it with a 10-yard touchdown toss to Cam Cleeland.

Cowboys 35, Cardinals 28

Visiting Dallas barely held off after taking a 28-0 lead as Jake Plummer passed for a career-high

465 yards and three touchdowns for Arizona.

Plummer had the Cardinals on the Cowboys 4 in the final seconds, but he threw two incompletions after spiking the ball on first down to stop the clock with 9 seconds left after a 57-yard pass to Rob Moore. The final pass was knocked out of Moore's hands by Kevin Smith as time expired as the Cardinals vehemently claimed pass interference.

Dallas' sixth victory in as many games against NFC East opponents moved the Cowboys (7-3) two games ahead of the second-

place Cardinals with six to go.

Ennitt Smith rushed for 118 yards in 26 carries and three scores to move ahead of Jim Brown to No. 3 on the NFL career touchdown list with 127. Only Jerry Rice and Marcus Allen have more.

Jaguars 29, Buccaneers 24

Fred Taylor ran 70 yards touchdown with 2:40 remaining to lift host Jacksonville past Tampa Bay. It was his third TD as the Jaguars (8-2) won their third straight and took a two-game lead over Pittsburgh in the AFC Central.

See NFL, Page 18

Clemens
wins
record 5th
Cy Young

NEW YORK (AP) — Roger Clemens won his record fifth Cy Young Award yesterday in a unanimous vote, receiving the American League's pitching honor for the second straight year.

Clemens also was a unanimous selection in 1986 and won the award in 1987 and 1991. The only other AL pitchers to get all first-place votes were Ron Guidry in 1978 and Denny McLain in 1968.

The 36-year-old right-hander, who won his first three Cy Youngs with Boston, went 20-6 with a 2.65 ERA for the Toronto Blue Jays, striking out 271 in 234 2-3 innings. He went unbeaten in his final 22 starts, winning 15 decisions.

Clemens, who gets a \$250,000 bonus for winning the award, received all 28 first-place votes from the Baseball Writers' Association of America.

Boston's Pedro Martinez was second with 20 seconds and five thirds for 65 points, followed by David Wells of the New York Yankees, who got four seconds and 19 thirds for 31 points.

Yankees teammate David Cone was fourth with four seconds and four thirds for 16 points.

Clemens tied for the AL lead in wins and was tops in ERA and strikeouts. In 1997, he joined Atlanta's Greg Maddux and Steve Carlton as the only four-time Cy Young winners.

When Clemens won the award last year, he joked his mission was complete.

"I got one for Koby and Kory. I got one for Kasy, and I needed one for Kody," said Clemens, reeling off the names of his children. All are named with the later K, the slang term for a strikeout.

The National League Cy Young Award will be announced today.

SCOREBOARD

ENGLISH SOCCER — Last night's Premier League result: Nottingham Forest 2, Derby County 2.

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THE WEATHER

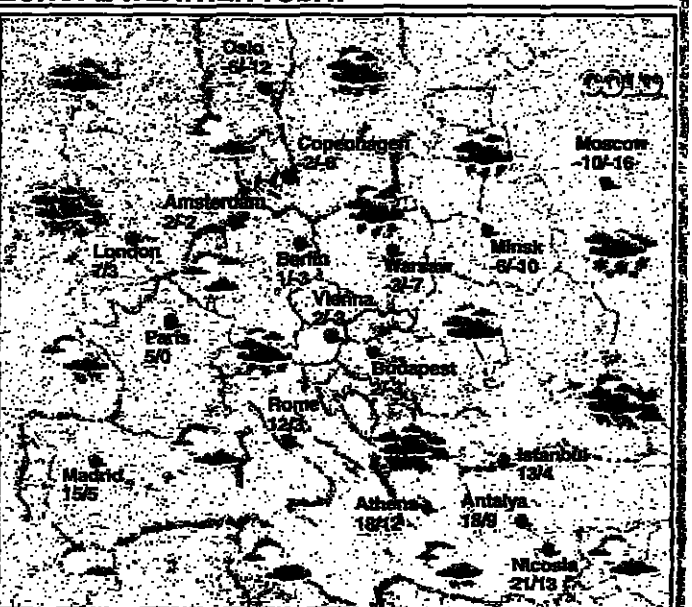
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NORTH AMERICA WEATHER TODAY



EUROPE WEATHER TODAY



Shown is today's weather. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.

ISRAEL CITIES

City	Today High/Low	Wednesday High/Low	Thursday High/Low	Friday High/Low
Jerusalem	23/12	22/10	23/11	24/12
Tel Aviv	24/17	23/16	24/18	25/19
Haifa	21/15	20/14	21/16	22/17
Beersheva	24/11	23/10	24/12	25/13
Netanya	24/17	23/16	24/18	25/19
Dead Sea	23/12	22/10	23/11	24/12
Jerusalem	23/12	22/10	23/11	24/12
Tel Aviv	24/17	23/16	24/18	25/19
Haifa	21/15	20/14	21/16	22/17
Beersheva	24/11	23/10	24/12	25/13

Weather (W) = sunny, partly cloudy, cloudy, showers, thunderstorms, rain, snow, haze, snow, ice.

INTERNATIONAL CITIES

City	Today High/Low	Wednesday High/Low	Thursday High/Low	Friday High/Low
London	12/8	11/7	12/9	13/10
Paris	11/7	10/6	11/8	12/9
Rome	13/9	12/8	13/10	14/11
Madrid	14/10	13/9	14/11	15/12
Amsterdam	10/6	9/5	10/7	11/8
Brussels	11/7	10/6	11/8	12/9
Frankfurt	12/8	11/7	12/9	13/10
Hong Kong	27/20	26/19	27/21	28/22
Los Angeles	74/54	73/53	74/55	75/56
New York	54/40	53/39	54/41	55/42
San Francisco	62/48	61/47	62/49	63/50
Tokyo	58/44	57/43	58/45	59/46
Washington	52/38	51/37	52/39	53/40

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A reception for alumni and friends of the Rothberg International School for overseas students will be held at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 18, at the Rothberg School's new Boyar Building, Mount Scopus campus, with the participation of Sam and Jean Rothberg.

For details, phone 588-2624.

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